

NEW
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VICTOR MILLER - EDITOR IN CHIEF



CITY IS LOSING FIGHT AGAINST SLUMLORDS

by Brian Doohan

"Went through rooms, made list, found dead body in #17. Room OK."

- File notations by BBI Inspector S. K. Gosch re 1941 Mission, January 8, 1993.

New Years' Day, 1969 dawned clear and mild in Pasadena, where President-elect Nixon enjoyed Ohio State's upset of USC and its young phenom O. J. Simpson 27-16 in the Rose Bowl. In San Francisco, the trial of Terence Hallinan for obstructing an officer's nightstick with his head in the previous May's demos at San Francisco State continued while SFSU President S. I. Hayakawa conceptualized the university as "what the medieval Church was - all of that to which the hopes of human salvation are entrusted".

And the San Francisco's Bureau of Building Inspection forwarded the case of Emilia Reyes' building at 1801 Folsom to the City Attorney for prosecution under the San Francisco condemnation ordinance.

A few things have changed in the past 24

years... Nixon and Simpson retired, Hayakawa dead.... while some have not. Terence Hallinan is still stirring up trouble... and 1801 Folsom is still on BBI's books as the Mission's oldest case.

In our July 1991 issue, a four year campaign by the News to obtain the BBI's list of condemned buildings finally bore fruit as we received a list of over 700 properties, 100 of them in and near the Mission. Mark Barmore, then City Attorney in charge of abatement proceedings elaborated on the progress or lack of same in a dozen of the worst cases.

According to Barmore's successor, Ilene Dick, all but three of the dirty dozen have been abated - that is, the violations had been corrected to the extent that the order of condemnation was lifted. The fate of the others rested with the courts.

At 16 Hill Street (owner Ted Bacino), for example, the ongoing controversy concerns responsibility for an alleged illegal unit. There are many such "apartments" all over the city - converted garages, basements, fire stairwells and, in fact, any conceivable nook and

cranny rented out as housing, safe or not. Among Sup. Hallinan's endeavors is proposed legislation to declare such oddities as legal housing, a move which has elicited concern from not only the BBI and other City agencies but neighborhood groups concerned about parking and population density.

Another contemptible structure at 3070 24th (owners David and Jennie Pacheco) has been found to contain no less than 42 code violations, many life-threatening. Additionally, the vacant storefront beneath the apartment remains a blight on the strip, beset by allegations of gang activity that makes the surrounding residential and commercial neighborhood uncomfortable.

But the slow rate of clearance of cases and the even slower journey of long-term nuisances from the BBI to the City Attorney has a lot of people fuming - tenants, neighbors, homeowners and builders who feel that BBI is devoting too much attention to minor and/or technical violations in owner-occupied

structures while ignoring tenant complaints, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

A December, 1992 list was provided to the News just before press time. Of the 100 condemned Mission buildings of 18 months earlier, 59 had not been abated. The BBI's best clearance record was among those referred to the City Attorney and on Mission Street, where ongoing public outcry and police presence has hastened the renevatory process.

One Mission Street building not listed, as described in last month's News, was 3317. Just before Christmas, the News accompanied the Code Enforcement Coalition (CEC), a committee composed of tenant, church and legal groups such as the Tenants' Union, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, St. Peter's and Old St. Mary's Housing Committees on a tour of dilapidated buildings in the Mission, Tenderloin and South of Market that were absent from the BBI's current list.

At 3317 Mission, the building reported in
continued on Page 4

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES TOP LOCAL AGENDA ANGER BUT NO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

by Victor Miller

Crime continues to be the Mission's number one problem but consensus on what should be done remains elusive. On three consecutive evenings, January 27th through 29th, over 300 Mission neighbors attended community meetings addressing the crime issue. While involvement of this many people is obviously encouraging, a comprehensive approach to the area's public safety concerns is as far away as ever.

A GLOOMY ALIOTO

On the 27th, Angela Alioto, President of the S.F. Board of Supervisors, was the fea-

tured speaker at a Police-Community Relations Meeting held the last Tuesday of every month at the Bayview Savings Building at 22nd and Mission. Outreach by a Recall Jordan group and advocates pro and con of a Dolores Park soccer field swelled turnout to over 100, twice normal.

This was a typical Mission gripe fest with the usual litany of complaints regarding burglary, street violence and dope dealing being directed at Alioto who arrived an hour late and appeared to be somewhat surprised by the vehemence of the group. Alioto gave little hope of the increased police services that many in attendance were demanding, citing

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3070 24th Street - a visible instance of blight on an otherwise thriving commercial strip!

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PUBLIC SAFETY

continued from Page 1

the City's budget crisis. "It is going to be a nightmare this year with a \$250 million dollar deficit."

To a series of complaints about the slowness of police response, Alioto admitted "the police department, at some level, is not doing its job" and gave a pessimistic appraisal of the coming year; "I'm the supervisor that fights for more police every year but the mayor's going to cut the police budget and you're just not going to get the help you need," provoking a predictably angry reaction from the crowd.

At the end, all Alioto could offer was another meeting in a larger room with the Chief of Police and the Mayor.

PLAYGROUND UNDER SIEGE

The 28th brought a community meeting called by the Mission Playground Association drew 120 people and Chief of Police Anthony Ribera to the playground rec center.

After the fire bombing of the house of a crime witness in August, police finally managed to clear Dolores Park of the 50-60 drug dealers that had plagued that area for months.

Unfortunately, the majority of those people set up shop in Mission Playground, which is 20% the size of Dolores Park. This concentration of frequently violent thugs has pretty much ended the use of the playground by kids.

Ribera admitted that police resources had been diverted to the endemically crime-ridden 16th and Mission area in the last four months, but promised a reversal of the situation and increased patrols in the playground.

Asked how he intended to meet increased demands for police in the Mission, Ribera held out hope for new officers, earmarked for the Mission and Tenderloin. Encouraging as this sounded, it certainly did not jibe with Alioto's remarks the previous evening. Ribera



Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

ANGELA ALIOTO predicted a budget nightmare for 1993.

promised a "significant change" at Mission Playground in 6 months, and added that he would like to be able to bring his kids there to swim by summer.

Donna Lee, head of the District Attorney's Narcotics Unit was less of a crowd pleaser.

Lee had promised improvement in the D.A.'s prosecution record regarding drug dealers at an October 19th meeting of the Dolores Park Association. The Examiner reported that, of the 400 drug related arrests in Dolores Park and Mission Playground in 1992, 194 (or 48.5%) were dismissed, 98 cases (24.5%) were pending and there had been 108 convictions (27.1%). Of the convictions, only 45 had served more than 30 days in county jail and only 10 had been sentenced to state prison. Lee's explanation failed to satisfy residents adjacent to the park like Zoila Aguilar, who said that drug dealers had tried to recruit her 12 year old son or Valencia Street merchant Susan Amicarella, who described the Playground as a "war zone".

Outside the meeting site, a security fence,

promised by the City over a year ago, remained unfinished and the usual assortment of drunken thugs were selling drugs. Ironically, Ribera's prediction of "significant change" took only one day to manifest when a wolf pack of 10 to 13 year old boys robbed 82 year old Ellen Monzoni in broad daylight Friday afternoon, beating her so badly that she remains in critical condition, resulting in police flooding the neighborhood, allowing kids a safe place to play until the next "hot spot" bubbles over.

S.A.F.E.

Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) held its own community meeting a few hours after Monzoni's beating at the Mission Neighborhood Center on Capp Street. Ten SAFE staff members and Captain George Kowalski guided about 70 residents and service organization reps through a 90 minute review of the wide variety of crime prevention programs this 16 year old non-profit organization provides.

SAFE's core activity is organizing neighborhood watches or anti crime block organizations. Specialists in a number of different safety issues such as gangs, senior safety, child safety and business security are also available at no charge to residents and businesses city wide.

At the meeting, SAFE reported the results of its survey of Mission residents showing that 42.5% thought the crime problem had gotten worse in the last year, and 38.9% thought it had gotten much worse.

SAFE has programs citywide but received funding approval from the State Office of Criminal Justice for \$78,000 to intensify efforts along the area from South Van Ness to Valencia and 16th to 25th Streets. These funds have been tied up in Sacramento due to the State budget crisis, but SAFE decided to kick off the program anyway with the January meeting.

How far the Mission corridor drive will get without funding, and what specific form it will take, are still unclear.

While none of these three meetings were, in and of themselves, unproductive, their scheduling on three consecutive nights indicates a disjointed and uncoordinated public safety campaign that duplicates effort and is proceeding in different directions at a time when a focused and comprehensive push is needed.

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SLUMLORDS

continued from Page 1

our January issue, major violations included ceilings sagging and about to collapse onto the floors below. Reportedly, BBI had visited and reported on the building, but had lost its file.

Another garden of delights was the Chronicle Hotel, South of Market, across the street from the journalistic emporium of the same name. There, tenants' complaints included exceeded the usual tales about vermin and heatlessness.

A few years back, when the Carmelita Apartments at 15th and Valencia belonged to a particularly odious slumlord, sewage had the habit of dripping from its geriatric plumbing into the apartments below. At the Chronicle, however, the damage has been so massive that backups occur from below! forcing occasional gushings from the sinks and toilets that would gladden the heart of any Texas oilman.

Yet another Mission Street building illustrates how even some of the City's most successful efforts to clean up its backlog of dangerous buildings have collapsed under the weight of the caseload.

In November, 1991, the News reported on a joint series of raids conducted by the BBI along with other departments including City and District attorneys and Mission police at the Grand Southern Hotel at 1941 Mission, which had deteriorated to the point that it was hazardous not only to its tenants but to children at the adjacent Marshall School. The Grand Southern cleanup was hailed as the sole success story of the Task Force.

The relief was short lived.

Seven months after the administrative hearing that gave the Grand Southern a green light, the building was again posted and, on October 7th last year, another Order of Abatement was issued listing 64 housing conditions and an additional 16 electrical violations. BBI files note several visits since, including an inspection of the basement summarized "work barely acceptable" and concluding with the most recent inspection on January 8th. There, the various damage to the hotel was tallied by room, including broken smoke detectors, toilet, wall and window damage, lack of water or cold water only.

One of the few units not in violation was Room #17, next to which inspector S. K. Gosch marked "OK". In his summary of the inspection, he wrote "went through rooms, made list, found dead body in #17."

1941 Mission has gone back to the bottom of a long list of properties that will be handled by BBI (and eventually maybe the City Attorney). Lack of cooperation between such agencies as the BBI (which is under the Department of Public Works, which reports to the Chief Administrative Officer), the City and District Attorneys and other agencies such as the Police Department, accountable to a Commission appointed by the Mayor, results in a situation analogous to the Department of Motor Vehicles where you stand in one line, work your way to the front, then go to back of another and another. Owners of hazardous buildings can string the process out for decades.

The absurdity of shuffling between agencies is apparent in the case of 1801 Folsom, which has been repeatedly bounced between agencies and between different BBI inspectors monitoring electrical, plumbing, and other violations. First listed in 1963, then on August 10, 1967 before being sold to Ms. Reyes, it was the subject of 16 departmental hearings between June 1970 and December 1972, kicked between the BBI and City Attorney in the early 70s, sent to the District Attorney in December 1986, 11 months after an inspection revealed 42 code violations, bounced back to BBI and, in the most recent entry of October 29th last year, was routed jointly to the Planning and Fire Departments for further study.

(1801 Folsom is only the fifth oldest case to have been referred to the City Attorney; the current leader is a building in the Excelsior whose file was opened in 1955 when President Clinton was learning how to spell "economy" in elementary school in Hot Springs, Ark. An

additional 17 buildings which went on the BBI calendar before 1970 have not even yet been referred to the City Attorney.)

Ms. Reyes herself is another piece of work, maintaining a personal residence in the Fontana Towers facing the Bay from Van Ness on a telephone company salary and proceeds from four small buildings which have amassed 104 health liens, 33 water liens and lesser numbers of rent board, tax and school liens in a dozen years (a fifth building was apparently attached by sheriffs several years ago).

City Attorney Dick acknowledged that there was no penalty for the habitual violators she calls "frequent fliers" except at the occasional discretion of a judge handing out small fines.

Dick added that she had spent the recent holidays reviewing "six boxes of files" she inherited from Barmore and felt that newer rules would facilitate prosecutions, but emphasized that the City Attorney acts at the instigation of BBI. "The way the system works is that the client, the Bureau, decides." A vast variation in time from BBI Directors' Hearings to City Attorney referral (anywhere from 3 months to 3 or more years) is explainable partly by random factors but, increasingly, will have to do with the presence of complicating circumstances such as the presence of so-called 11570 drug abatement actions that prompted at least the temporary clean up of 1941 Mission.

Efforts like the Grand Southern strike work best when there is a prospective non-profit purchaser for the dilapidated property. Federal funds for takeovers have been skimpy in the last decade, but if the optimism of some Mission organizations over the appointment of Henry Cisneros as HUD Secretary proves valid, alternatives to prolonged and costly litigation may arise.

The Carmelita Apartments, for example, were finally acquired by the Housing Development and Neighborhood Preservation non-profit firm whose Director, Al Borvice says the Carmelita and a few other non-profit managed buildings are "islands of sanity" in a neighborhood under siege by the criminal element operating out of ramshackle Mission Street hotels and the Valencia Gardens projects.

"We're hopeful, but the word is that Clinton has told Cisneros to get in the back of the line," Borvice told the news. He estimates at least a year until site acquisition and rehab funds become more widely available, but noted that non-profits and community groups can "begin doing their legwork now".

While tenants gripe about the nonresponsiveness of the BBI, homeowners and contractors feel that the agency spends an inordinate amount of time on trivial or absurd complaints. One of the latter, according to local contractor Ross Warden, occurred when an inspector arrived at a Mission building the day after a three-alarm fire had reduced it to a heap of charcoal and demanded that the weeping owner produce evidence of compliance with a prior code violation. "I have to see the work, or I'll start condemnation proceedings."

"Lady," the owner pointed, "it's burnt!"

Randy Shaw of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, another CEC member, has noted the preponderance of high salaried administrators in the BBI ranks, and traces the current malaise to the splitting of code enforcement functions a few years ago. "Before the split-off," Shaw declared "it would take violations two months to get to a hearing. Now, it takes six or more."

The Code Enforcement Coalition has asked BBI Superintendent Larry Litchfield to attend a public meeting on February 9th. Last month, the St. Peter's Housing Committee invited a predominantly Spanish-speaking crowd to share their tales of overcrowded and dilapidated buildings and the difficulty of making both landlords and the City respond to non-English speaking tenants.

"The landlords are not interested in the health of tenants, only in the dollar," one of the participants concluded. At the Feb. 9th meeting, the BBI has the opportunity to show that the same condition does not extend to their department.



Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

1801 Folsom - bouncing between bureaucracies since the LBJ administration!

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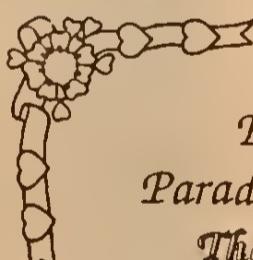
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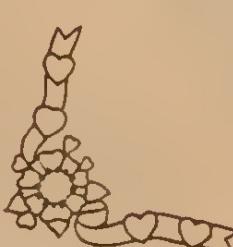
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SQUEEZE PLAY

MISSION BASEBALL FAN STALLS STADIUM DEAL

by Nicole Volpe

Last month, activists were hard at work obtaining signatures from those who are against the \$15 million in lease concessions given to the owners of the San Francisco Giants. Through the holidays and the bad weather, people were lining up to sign on.

At the heart of the "Campaign Against the Giveaway" was Mission District resident David Spero, who runs a business gathering signatures for ballot initiatives. This time he donated his services to campaign organizer Doug Comstock because of his outrage at the deal he believes cheats San Francisco's citizens.

"These powerful businessmen with their deep pockets basically stuck up the people of this city," said Spero. "And no one thought we could stop them."

The campaign's activists had to obtain about 19,000 signatures in 30 days. They obtained 29,668.

The 5 year agreement the City made that triggered such public outcry was to give the Giants \$1 a year rent, plus some concessions on utilities. Previously, the team paid the City over \$3 million a year. Mayor Frank Jordan agreed to the deal, and it went before the Board of Supervisors. Despite budget analyst Harvey Rose's advice that it was a bad deal for the city, only Supervisor Terence Hallinan stood up against the agreement.

"No one wanted to go up against these powerful people, these multimillionaires," said Spero. "Especially when the owners give thousands of dollars to slush funds for the supervisors."

The owners, including real estate mogul Walter Shorenstein, Gap owner Don Fisher, Stockbroker Charles Schwab and Safeway owner Peter Magowan, were the subject of an Examiner article detailing how they made generous contributions to "friends of" ac-



Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Petition adept DAVID SPERO and canine accomplice.

counts for Supervisors who voted for the concessions. Supervisor Hallinan didn't get anything.

"When I called up Shorenstein for a campaign contribution," Hallinan told the New Mission News, "he said he wouldn't give one to me until after the vote, and then he'd decide." Hallinan said that, if anything, the statement deterred him from voting for the deal because he didn't want to feel he had taken a bribe. Shorenstein's office told the New Mission News that he would be unavail-

able for comment on the stadium issue.

Hallinan says that he was "surprised and disappointed" with the other supervisors' votes for the agreement. He believes the contributions were factors in their decision, "even if unconscious factors".

Hallinan seemed excited about the petition drive. "David Spero's great," he said. "They all really proved they could get the signatures. People were waiting in line to sign. And it didn't matter what neighborhoods, either. To even come within the ballpark of

19,000 valid signatures is incredible."

Spero usually does this kind of signature gathering for ballot initiatives for his business called Pacific Petitions. Sponsors of ballot pay him a fee, then he pays activists to obtain signatures. This time he donated his services, as did many of the people circulating petitions. Some activists were paid with money that angry citizens donated or loaned to the campaign.

"Hundreds of people from all over the city called and we sent them petition pages," said Spero. "Some sent them back with eight or ten signatures, and some came back with 400 signatures. It was a miracle in the rain."

Spero says he has nothing against baseball and was, in fact, one of the key supporters of a downtown stadium measure that narrowly failed just after the Loma Prieta earthquake. "I go to about 8 or 9 games a year," he said, "and I'm a baseball fan." The Baltimore native does admit he likes the Orioles.

Now, the signatures have been verified as registered voters' signatures. With more than enough, the Board of Supervisors has the option to rescind the legislation, or to submit the decision to the voters in November.

"If they put it to the voters," said Spero, "the voters will side with us."

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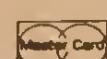
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by andy solow

DOLORES PARK SOCCER

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During the winter of 1992, the S.F. Recreation & Parks Dept. promised the Mission District that there would be a minimum of three athletic fields available for Mission Youth on a continuing basis starting in June of 1992. As of February 1993, the 14,000 children living in the Mission District do not even have one usable soccer field.

Franklin Field (located at 16th and Bryant Streets), the only soccer field in the Mission, is covered with Eucalyptus seed pods and small rocks, rendering the field unsafe and therefore unusable.

There is already a small athletic field immediately adjacent to the Dolores Park tennis courts which is used for soccer practice and informal games by both children and adults. The modifications proposed for the existing Dolores Park athletic field would not significantly alter the existing physical geography or esthetic appearance of the Park.

There are at least four neighborhood schools within walking distance of the Park that would all use an improved and properly maintained athletic field: Mission High School, Everett Middle School, Dolores School and St. Charles School have all expressed their support for this project.

The Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL) would also make use of an athletic field located in Dolores Park. Currently, MYSL has over 270 children playing soccer on a year round basis. MYSL expects to have at least 500 children playing by July, 1993.

Because there are currently no usable soccer fields located in the Mission District, MYSL is using Ralph Park's baseball field, Jose Coronado Playground (asphalt), the Mission Rec Center & Horace Mann School basketball courts (indoors), Jackson Park Baseball Field, the field at Potrero Hill Rec Center and fields located at Crocker Amazon, USF, in the Excelsior, at Balboa Park, etc. Kids who cannot commute to practice on foot or by public transportation are transported by parents or coaches. Many children can not participate unless there is a practice field within walking distance of their home.

In order to make a significant increase in the number of children participating in organized sports like soccer in the Mission District, the community must implement both short term and long term plans for the development of additional children's athletic fields.

In the near term, we must evaluate all of the existing open spaces in the Mission to see if they could be adapted for use as athletic fields without significant impact on the existing uses, physical geography, or esthetic appearance of each existing open space.

In the long run, we must acquire additional open spaces in the Mission for use as children's athletic fields.

PARK and WRECK III

— NO WAY JOSÉ

Why does it take three years and cost \$450,000 to build a new children's play area and a small one story building with a bathroom at a neighborhood playground in San Francisco?

During the winter and spring of 1992, the Citizen's Open Space Advisory Committee, the S.F. Recreation & Park Commission, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor approved the expenditure of \$450,000 for the renovation and improvement of Jose Coronado Playground (formerly Folsom). Many of us have been wondering what has happened since

According to Park Planner Joann C.

Wilson, the Bureau of Architecture is so busy that it would have been at least 18 months before they could have assigned a City architect to do the required design work. The Bureau reports to the Department of Public Works, which is under the Chief Administrative Officer, as opposed to Park & Rec, under a Mayoral Commission.

Joanne has been trying to solve this problem by getting permission to hire an architect from the public sector. The process that she has been subjected to for the last eight months has gone something like this:

1) Locate an architect who is willing to do the job.

2) Negotiate the scope of work with the architect; this is called a personnel services contract.

3) Get the contract approved by: the Parks and Planning Committee of the Rec & Park Commission, the Full Rec & Park Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission.

4) Send the contract to the Architect for signature. As of the first week in January, 1993, Patrick Mora of Mora Architects and Jorge Hernandez of Modus Operandi had actually received the "approved" personnel services contract.

5) Finally, get the signed contract Certified by somebody; maybe the Controllers' Office? Joanne wasn't sure.

According to Ms. Wilson, this is the first time that Park and Rec has used a private architect exclusively on one of their projects. In addition, the money that was earmarked for this renovation project wasn't actually available until October, 1992.

However, I think it is important for the bureaucrats who set up this paper flow system to understand that at least 150 children and adults use Jose Coronado Playground daily and they need a place to "go". According to St. Charles Elementary School teacher Lynn Phillips, though conditions at Jose Coronado Playground have improved dramatically, there is still urine in the children's sandbox and without a bathroom, she has to walk her entire class back to St. Charles if even one child has to "go".

If we are lucky, the City might actually start construction on this project a year or two from now.

WAR GAMES

December 31, 1992, 12:45 AM; five black and whites at 21st and Mission; approx. 11 male youths lying face down on the ground with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

According to Officer Hector Sainez, the youths were observed hiding guns during a traffic stop. Several guns were confiscated and all of the suspects were removed to Mission Station. The suspects were alleged to be Alameda residents looking for trouble in S.F. Thankfully, the Police found them first.

It would sure be nice if kids had something constructive to do with their time that they would freely choose instead of running around loose playing "Rambo meets Lord of the Flies" at 1:00 AM. Every time one of these kids shoots someone, it must cost the City and County of San Francisco and the State of California at least half a million dollars in investigation, detention, prosecution and incarceration costs.

Wouldn't it be cheaper to keep school gymnasiums and recreation centers open until 2:00 AM on weekends (if necessary, staffed with security guards and metal detectors) instead of just waiting for the kids to screw up so the Police can catch them and put them in jail?



A CONVERSATION WITH ANGIE FA

by Claudia Lunstroth

Mission resident Angie Fa, chair of the Asian American Department at SF Community College, claims to be the first (out) Asian Lesbian elected to office. In this case, it's the San Francisco Board of Education. She decided to run for office because she was so appalled by the high number of "kids who can't read or write" she sees in her Asian American studies classes.

"I saw a need for basic skills, especially with immigrant children," she said as she produced a copy of a paper turned in by a student whose family has been in this country since the 70's. Though linguists say it usually takes seven years for a foreign speaker to become fluent, this high school graduate wrote a paper that lacked basics such as noun/verb agreement, if there was even a verb in the sentence.

"Teachers are being asked to perform miracles," Fa said, referring to the high teacher-to-student ratio in almost all classes and the lack of resources. She explained some of the options the Board is considering to help increase revenue, which would help address these two basic problems. The sales tax could be extended, but Fa does not like that option because it is a regressive tax (but she would rather have a regressive tax than more cuts to school budgets.) Other options are a tax on stock trading and a tax on city employees that would somehow be directed towards those employees who do not live in the city.

Another classroom problem fresh on her mind was what to do with students who are up for suspension or expulsion. Tuesday, January 19, the day after our interview, was the new Board's first meeting to review these cases. Fa feels the Board is faced with a "moral dilemma" in most of these decisions. She says it is "not fair" to anyone — the teacher, the problem student or the other students — to keep many of these students in a



Board of Education member ANGIE FA.

regular classroom because their behavior or skills, or both, make a mainstreamed class impossible for them. The dilemma arises because just about the only alternatives are no school (the streets), Youth Guidance Center or worse.

Fa's goal is to make the school system provide students with the basic skills they need to survive as best as possible. Fa explained that improving the basic skills of the students requires a myriad of solutions: reducing class size, providing more resources, enhancing teacher education, involving the parents and the entire community in the schools and providing alternatives for the students who feel they have no place in society. Meeting these goals should also help cut down

on the behavior and truancy problems which lead to suspensions and expulsions because students, in theory, will not be so alienated by the classroom..

Ideally, Fa feels public schools will become "full service schools" that work with city agencies to provide services such as health care, general counseling, family counseling and more. (The on-site health clinic at Balboa High School is a good example of how successful such programs are.)

The funds generated by Prop. J should help, but Fa said there are already, predictably, complaints about the "complicated and hurried" application process for receiving these funds. Fa said that various organizations in the Mission have formed a coalition to look

into the fairness of the application and time requirements for funds.

Fa does support choice within the district as long as whatever system is set up is fair to all students and parents, especially immigrant families who have a harder time learning the system. One of Fa's major concerns is educating parents to know what schools are best for their children and how to get their children enrolled at those schools.

Fa pointed out that immigrant Latino families in the Mission have a unique problem brought about by the consent decree system set up to fight segregation. Consent decree schools in San Francisco cannot have more than 40% of any given ethnicity. While the various Asian groups are considered individually, all Hispanic-surname Latinos are grouped together. This means Latino students are more likely to be bused and makes choosing a particular school more complicated. Again, these problems are especially bad for immigrant parents who have to work through language barriers. The good part of the consent decree program is, naturally, the money it brings to the district and to individual schools.

When asked about gangs and violence in the schools, Fa said that the real problem is why youth join gangs in the first place. Her experience has taught her that gang members can be smarter or dumber than "average", but they are primarily disillusioned.

"We need to address the root problem," she said. "These kids feel they have no alternatives, that there are no jobs for them, that there is no place for them in society." Ideally, schools and the community would provide the education and the social services that give a child a reason to believe in the future.

Though Angie Fa didn't promise any fast results, she is confident the School Board has a progressive majority that will be able to make a difference. She also looks forward to working with Superintendent Rojas and the Board of Supervisors.



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A CASUALTY

by Victor Miller

On January 11th, with last month's downpour at its peak, a homemade memorial was hung from a parking meter at 26th and Valencia. The photograph of a young Latino boy rest amid a floral arrangement attached to a pasteboard placard informed anyone who stopped to read the handwritten words that one year ago to the day 13 year old Bayron Alvarado had been murdered on this spot. "A death that could have been avoided."

This small remembrance by Bayron's family was the only anniversary observance of an event whose senseless brutality shocked the entire city when it occurred.

On the evening of Jan. 11, 1992, Bayron, after allegedly becoming a member of the 11th Street Gang, was swept up with 15 other youths by police, who had received a report of a gang fight at Mission Playground. All were released after being questioned at Mission Station.

Soon thereafter, Bayron and his companions encountered two hooded individuals, one of whom pulled out a handgun. As he ran with his friends to get away, Bayron fell and crawled beneath a parked car. One of the hooded assailants pulled Bayron part way from beneath the car hiding him and fatally shot him twice in the back.

The ensuing outrage seemed to galvanize and unify the usually disparate elements of the Mission community behind the common goal of ending gang violence. Some hoped this tragedy would serve as the seminal event that would compel a complacent City government to recognize and respond to the long neglected crisis of Mission youth. This, at last, would have taken away some of the meaninglessness and ugliness of Bayron's death.

In the year that has passed, some things have changed for the better, some for the worse, and some not at all.

The Real Alternatives Program (RAP), a community based gang prevention and youth service organization, has operated late night basketball for "at risk" kids since March. RAP has also begun the first phases of the joint operation of Mission Recreation Center with the City's Department of Recreation and Parks. During the same time, gang violence increased at a faster place than ever before.

The money from Proposition J, a 1991 vote approved 2.5% property tax set-aside, became available to youth programs after some initial start up confusion but, as the second year of funding comes around, City bureaucracy is threatening to absorb an increasing amount of administrative costs and scatter the funds in a hundred different directions.

The debate over youth curfew between the strict disciplinarians and the civil libertarians goes back and forth and nowhere.

Two of the Mission's most accessible open spaces, Mission Playground and Dolores Park, have been off and on combat zones for warring dope dealers and generally unsafe for kids, seniors and anybody in between.

A proposed children's soccer field in Dolores Park is the basis for acrimonious contention rather than community consensus.

\$450,000 was allocated for a new children's play area and one story restroom at Jose Coronado Playground. Due to red tape, construction won't start for another year, maybe two.

In the year since Bayron's murder, there has been a greater awareness of the desperate situation of Mission youth and an increasing number of people committed to changing the status quo.

But this must be balanced against the continuing explosiveness of the streets and the callousness of an apparently immobile bureaucracy.

The tragedy of Bayron's death remains.



ESPERANZA MARTINEZ, Bayron's mother, and her daughter still struggle to understand Bayron's death. "I feel the same as I did a year ago. I just don't understand how it happened," Mrs. Martinez said. Photo by Collette Sweeny



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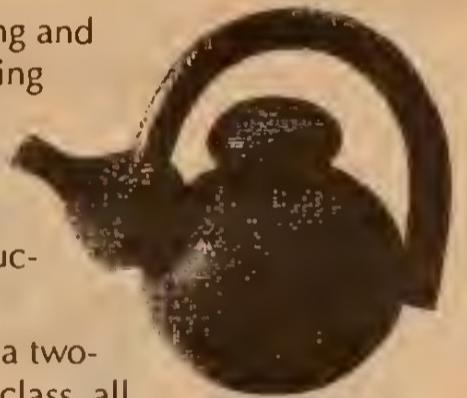
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C CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT UPDATE

D EAR SAN FRANCISCO VOTERS,

One year ago, when you voted for The Children's Amendment (Proposition J in 1991), you launched the "Decade of the Child" in San Francisco. For 10 years San Francisco cannot reduce funding for children's services, and 2.5% of the property tax must be set aside for children's programs. Here is a first year report from Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth, the originator and sponsor of The Children's Amendment.

DESPITE THE CITY'S BUDGET TROUBLES, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS WERE PROTECTED.

"We would have been dismantling most of our children's recreation programs, were it not for Prop J," the Superintendent of Recreation said. Your vote for The Children's Amendment saved elementary school music programs, after-school latchkey programs, children's mental health workers in neighborhoods, the S.F. General Hospital Pediatric Clinic, shelter and crisis counseling for runaway youth, and children's librarians.

SF DEVELOPED ITS FIRST CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN.

In February, 1992, Mayor Jordan presented, and the Board of Supervisors approved, the Children's Services Plan. A conscientious Citizen Advisory Committee spent months reviewing proposals for funding to implement the plan. In November, 1992, one year after the passage of the Amendment, 60 quality organizations were selected to receive first year funds. In most instances, the Mayor followed the carefully considered advice of his Citizen Advisory Committee; in some instances, he succumbed to political pressures.

THE PLAN IS A SOLID FIRST-YEAR BLUEPRINT FOR CHILDREN.

In its first year, The Children's Amendment will fund much of what Coleman Advocates envisioned:

- * Childcare vouchers for needy families
- * Four health clinics for children/moms
- * A Children's Bookmobile
- * Two teen multi-service centers
- * Resource center for families at risk
- * After-school youth employment programs
- * Community-based alternatives to Juvenile Hall
- * Services for homeless children

OF COURSE, THERE WERE DELAYS AND PROBLEMS - IN STARTING SOMETHING NEW.

While a few programs, like the long-awaited clinic in the Tenderloin, have actually started, most programs will not begin until February, 1993, at the earliest - a full 7 months after start-up was intended. Much of the delay occurred because Mayor Jordan was slow in paying attention to The Children's Amendment and committing the resources of his office. Now the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Their Families has developed a plan for the second year. While it proposes funding valuable services for children, the plan contains too much money for administration and runs the risk of fragmenting the funds.

WHAT CAN VOTERS DO NOW?

- * Contact Mayor Jordan. Let him know you want him to give children's services a higher priority, so The Children's Amendment will succeed. Phone: 554-6141
- * Contact the Mayor's Office for Children Youth and Their Families. Let them know you want the Children's Amendment funds spent directly on children's services. Share your concerns about kids - Phone: 554-8990
- * Contact Roberta Achtenberg on the Board of Supervisors. She is sponsoring a resolution about The Children's Services Plan, Year 2. Let her know you want the plan to be specific and to minimize administrative costs. Tell her what you want to see funded. Phone: 554-5556
- * Contact Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. We are committed to monitoring The Children's Amendment, so that not a dime is wasted. We want your suggestions and support. Call our new hotline number: 206-1023. Hear our latest action alert on what you can do for kids, and leave a message with your concerns about what's happening to kids in our city.

THE FUTURE HOLDS PROMISE: YOUR VIGILANCE IS NEEDED.

Children ARE getting more serious attention than at any time in the last 20 years in our city. But will children's needs continue to be a priority? Will the city continue to allocate funds wisely and fairly? Will the city make sure programs promised are actually delivered? Will voters really have a chance to be heard?

**We promise you that Coleman Advocates For children and Youth will be right there
keeping you informed about problems and successes as they develop.**



COLEMAN ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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NEW BOHEMIA FESTIVAL SET FOR FALL

by Robin Snyderman

Aside from being neighbors.. what do Ti Couz Restaurant, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco's Day Laborers Program, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Blondies Jazz Bar No Grill, Victoria Theater, Alianza and Mission Housing Development Corporation all have in common?

Aside from being neighbors? Simply... that they are proud of their neighborhood, of dwelling in The New Bohemia. That's right; The New Bohemia.

Individuals from these organizations came together to mobilize a growing coalition that has become The 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association.

Chair Anita Correa, whose spirited vision both catalyzes and coordinates their efforts, puts it most succinctly: "We want to unveil a 16th Street Corridor that people can positively identify. By cultivating our inherent strengths, we can overcome our current hardships.

"Economic and community development spring from a solid self- image. Empowering ourselves will result in higher public regard. Our diversity, our Arts and our passions are the qualities which characterize our community as the New Bohemia. It takes work to change negatives into positive, but good things are happening."

Such "good things" include a recent show of support from the City (by way of an \$11,000 Neighborhood Empowerment grant for outreach and education), as well as from Supervisor Annemarie Conroy, who signed on as the Association's Co-Chair.

The 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association may be the newest incarnation of an age-old tradition in local activism, but two distinguishing aspects of the group make their work particularly alluring.

For starters, their focus is less about problem-solving than it is empowerment and celebration.



Beginning with block-by-block outreach and monthly educational workshops... and culminating with October '94 New Bohemia Month, a four week-long thematic open-house (open corridor?) in which merchants, artists, service providers and tenants' groups will be encouraged to "do what they do best" in a well publicized celebration of the corridor's charms... the 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association aims to reach and revitalize EVERYBODY.

Secondly, this Association brings collaboration to a whole new level. "I applaud the desire of the 16th Street Neighborhood

Revitalization Association to include residents, service providers and merchants alike," explains German Martinez, Director of San Francisco's Day Laborers' Program. "Too

many neighborhoods divide as these groups find themselves on opposite sides of an issue.

"It's like I tell the laborers every day: 'This is your community. Whatever work you do to show your concern will be respected by everyone who shares this community with you.'

"The more we educate people about our strengths and potential," Mr. Martinez adds, "the less vulnerable we are to substance abuse and other handicaps."

Frances Phillips, Director of Intersection for the Arts, has long understood the power of the Arts. Ms. Phillips welcomes the focus of the 16th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Association as a "natural outgrowth of the area's inherent strengths. Many Mission-based artists are involved in education by offering arts to individuals in social service agencies, prisons, etc. The traditional link between political action and community arts can be seen all over. Just look to local murals and silkscreens."

Anita Correa also tells people to look to local papers for upcoming workshop topics, and to City streets for the neighborhood's insignia (to be placed aside the emblems so well known for Chinatown and North Beach).

Most importantly," Ms. Correa emphasizes, "get ready for our outreach teams! They'll be knocking on your door shortly to see how you want to participate!"

For further information contact Robin Snyderman at 864-6432 or Anita Correa at 863-7576.

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GUEST OPINION

NEIGHBORS OPPOSE POTRERO PROJECT

by Mark Lammers and Jim Riggs (Co-Chairs of the Inner Mission Neighbors' Housing Committee)

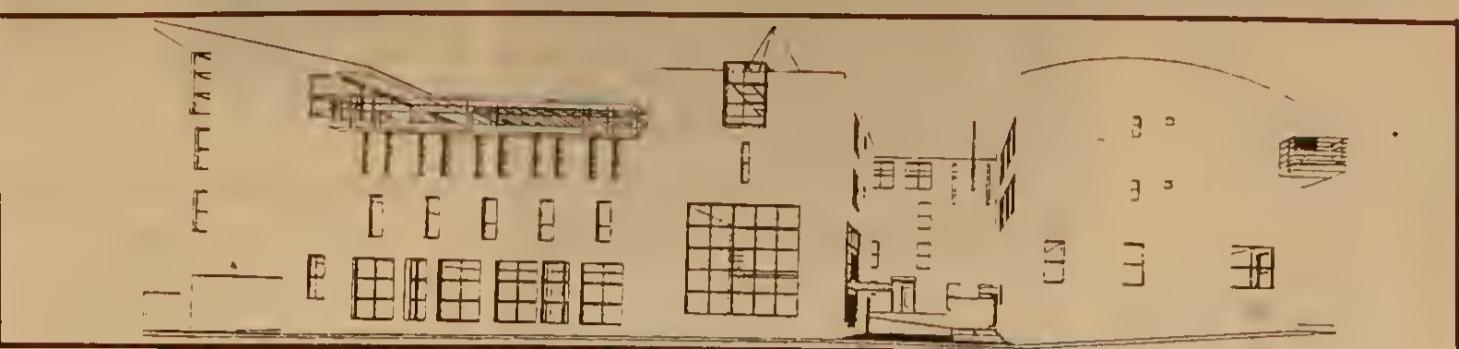
Two of the biggest challenges facing our community today are the development of affordable housing for low-income residents and community services for new immigrants. A development embracing either one of these issues has to balance a perceived solution with the overall impact it will have of the existing community.

The proposed development from Mission Housing Development Corporation and Good Samaritan, Inc. at 25th and Potrero is a perfect example of a cure that could kill the patient. Neighborhood residents think the project would significantly change the character of the existing neighborhood and negatively impact the quality of life by stressing TRAFFIC, SAFETY and DENSITY.

Vehicle traffic on Potrero is at an all time high because of the new construction at General Hospital, the new City Ambulance facility and the lingering effects of the earthquake. This busy traffic corridor is at the front door of the proposed development.

MUNI services will be stressed, not only by the increased usage but by the defacto zone created by the parents dropping children off for day care services. The single entrance off Potrero Street would become a safety hazard for those trying to turn onto 25th from Potrero and those crossing the street.

The two proposed buildings would fill the lot almost entirely. Very little open space would be left on a lot that now has the tallest Oak, Palm and Redwood trees in the Mission. The existing buildings will be demolished and replaced by two four story buildings that will be squeezed onto a small lot because it's cost effective for MHDC.



Artists' conception of the finished development

The height and size of the buildings will have an additional negative impact on the neighborhood by further limiting air, light and open space to the surrounding homes. The property itself will have a significant lack of light, air and open space with a buffer zone of only 25 feet.

Hundreds of residents and merchant neighbors are incensed that MHDC would propose this development in the presence of the existing MHDC building at the opposite end of the block. The MHDC managed housing development at the North end of the same block is seen by some neighbors as a trouble spot.

MHDC proposes to use scarce land resources, scarce funding resources and tax credits to significantly change the character of the existing community. They show no concern for the impact of the development on the occupants or the surrounding neighbors. Is MHDC genuinely concerned with the community, or is this a case of a private agenda finding a good opportunity?

The overwhelming consensus from the neighbors is that the proposed development will destroy the quality of life for those who live in and around it. The message being sent to MHDC is that decisions being made for the community cannot be made without the community.

MH.D.C. RESPONDS

Affordable housing and social services are indeed the biggest challenges facing our neighborhood, our nation. They also precipitate the biggest misunderstandings.

The Mission is a low-income district. Quality affordable housing simply enables residents to contribute more to their families and neighborhood, and to utilize existing services.

MHDC, established by the community in 1971, has a long history of successfully rehabilitating and building safe, decent, affordable housing.

Good Samaritan, Inc. has provided comprehensive social services on the Potrero site since 1894.

The re-development plans of 1290-1294 Potrero include a building and a program, designed by both agencies, to meet critical needs of local families without jeopardizing the neighborhood's environmental integrity.

Rather than refuting each misleading statement set forth in the above opinion, MHDC encourages those concerned to call 864-6432 to obtain a fact sheet.

MHDC also urges Mr. Lammers and Mr. Riggs to request a tour of any MHDC building. Scapegoating is a dangerous and harmful tendency, but education is the apt response.

Our newest development, Del Carlo Courts, is at 3330 Army Street. Take a look! by Daniel Hernandez and Robin Snyderman

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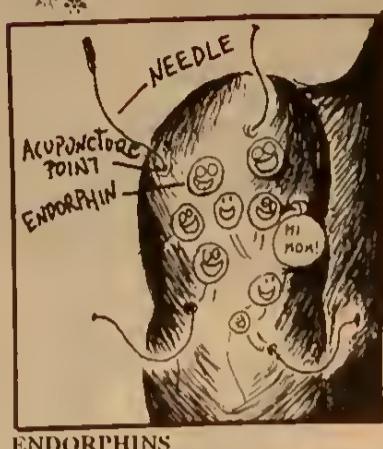
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THE ACUPUNCTURE FILE

by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O.



ENDORPHINS

Acupuncture works! The curious patient wants to know how it works. Until fairly recently, not much was known about "how" or "why".

An exciting breakthrough in understanding how acupuncture works was the discovery of endorphins. Endorphins are the body's natural pain killers and anti-stress agents. They provide pain relief (which can be long lasting) and combat the effects of stress. About fifteen years ago, it was discovered that acupuncture stimulation causes these endorphins to be released.

This discovery is credited to Bruce Pomeranz, a pioneer in acupuncture research at the University of Toronto. He has shown that applying needles to acupuncture points reduces pain sensation through the release of endorphins. His findings are discussed in New Scientist, Vol. 73, pg. 12, 1977.

RELIEF OF CHRONIC PAIN BY ACUPUNCTURE

T. Murphy, another medical researcher, cites a study of 100 adults who were treated with acupuncture because they were suffering from chronic pain. After their first treatment, 80% declared their pain to be at least 30% better than before the treatment. (Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Vol. 1, New York, Raven Press, 1976)

Other scientists have observed that acupuncture is capable of giving pain relief to 70% of patients. These results were published in Current Researchers, Vol. 55(2), March-

April, 1976, and Pain, Vol. 3, pg. 137-145, April 1977.

CORRECTION OF INTERNAL DISORDERS

Observations from Europe and the United States prove that acupuncture stimulation also acts on internal organs such as the stomach, intestines, uterus, heart, blood vessels, etc. This action may not be explained fully by endorphin releases, as discussed above. For information to explain the effect of acupuncture on internal organs, scientists turn to research done in Germany.

Research on electric acupuncture was developed around 1953 in Germany by R. Voll, a professor of neuro-anatomy. Dr. Voll discovered that the wellness of internal organs can be observed by taking electrical measurement of certain points on the skin. He used the galvanic skin reflex to measure body potentials for the purpose of diagnosing diseases. With more than twenty years of observation, he found that the so-called "meridians" and "acupuncture points" represent condensations of electrical field force.

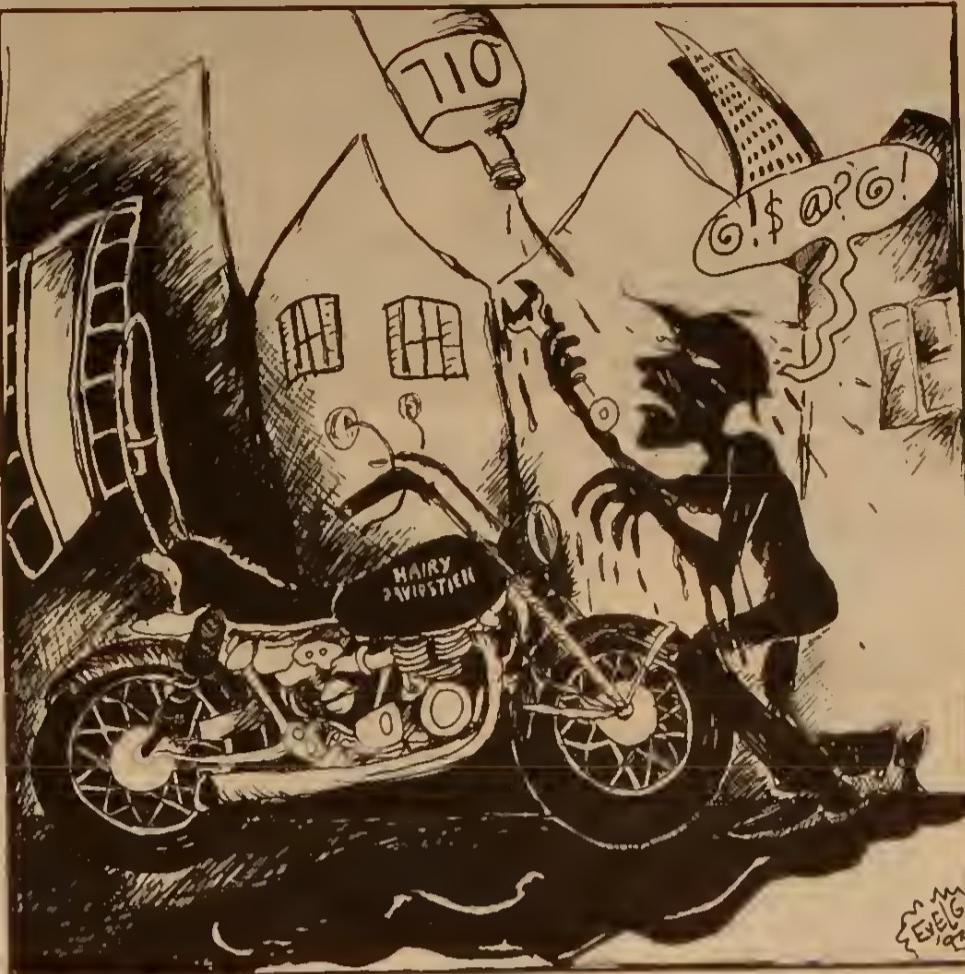
Dr. Voll tested acupuncture points for their effectiveness over 100,000 times. He backed his research by clinical and surgical confirmation and mapped the exact correlation between the skin points and internal organs. These points correlate to the "meridians" and "acupuncture points" which the Chinese discovered thousands of years ago. (American Journal of Acupuncture, Vol. 3, March 1975.)

* * * * *

These studies are just a beginning, but they indicate that the mechanism of acupuncture involves stimulating specific points on the skin. This stimulation evokes a specific nervous system response — especially autonomic nerve activities such as digestion, peristalsis, heart rate, etc. It appears that, through biochemical means, acupuncture is able to readjust the function of internal organs as well as provide lasting relief from pain.

Sally McMullen is a certified Acupuncturist. She can be contacted at 550-7732

HOW TO PREVENT INLAND OIL SLICKS



by Maria Hon

More than 780 million gallons of motor oil go in and out of American cars each year. About half of them become the REAL oil spill - in our driveways, sewers and garbage cans. This is the oil spill the keeps folks like me awake at night. This is DIY Oil (Do-It-Yourselfer), the oil of the self-reliant mechanic that prefers to do it at home and save some money. An EPA survey estimated that about 65% of the DIY oil is illegally dumped. And that's no good news. Consider the following:

* Oil poured on the ground doesn't evaporate - it sinks in. Poured down storm sewers, the heavy metals of the oil end up in the bay or the Ocean, into the fish, into our stomachs.

* Oil thrown in the garbage can ends up in our landfill where it leaks into our ground water supplies or into coastal waters.

* Americans illegally dump 120 million gallons of used motor oil each year down storm drains, in the trash, on the ground - the equivalent of 11 times the amount of the Exxon Valdez spill.

* Just one pint of oil can make a one acre slick on a lake or a stream. The resulting film blocks out sunlight needed for plants to carry out photosynthesis. Without photosynthesis, there'll be no oxygen. To clean up the spill, we need to have microorganisms eat it up. These little creatures need oxygen to do their job, and so do fish and other aquatic life.

The Solution: RECYCLE IT!

Used motor oil is ideal for recycling. Motor oil NEVER wears out. It just gets dirty. As it does its job in the crankcase of

your convertible, additives in the oil break down and contaminants get in. When oil is recycled, it simply gets cleaned up through a process called "re-refining". When oil is re-refined, impurities are removed by heating and filtering, giving us "New" oil. Close to home, in Newark, is Evergreen Oil, which takes in about 12 million gallons of used oil each year.

SO, if you are a DIY (Do-It-Yourselfer), how do you make sure your used motor oil gets to Evergreen re-refinery and not into some pristine waterway?

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HOLT LABOR LIBRARY: Labor Studies and Radical History

Long time activist, socialist and retired engineer, Rod Holt, has made a major contribution to the role of New College as a resource for labor and activist scholarship by donating the resources necessary to begin a library and archive dedicated to Labor Studies and Radical History. The project developed out of the friendship between Holt and Guy Benjamin, former All-American quarter back at Stanford and with the 49ers, founder of the New College Sport and Society Program, and labor/social activist. During the summer of 1992, Holt provided the initial funding to create the space and structure at 50 Fell Street, reorganizing the library offices and for building the shelving, tables, chairs and acquiring the computers for the library.

The collection consists of about 3000 books and pamphlets, as well as, periodicals, both historical and current. The library is designed to provide an accessible and comfortable place for people to both research and browse materials not commonly found in public libraries. There will soon be two Macintosh computers to assist in research, as well as, a copier.

The collection is growing steadily and donations of books, pamphlets and documents relating to the theory and history of communism in all its forms, the history of left political parties, current and historical labor issues, social struggles of people of color and women would be appreciated. Of particular note is an extensive collection of materials concerning Trotskyist movement and ideology, as well as, impressive number of materials on Cuba. The library has over 50 subscriptions including the *United Mineworkers Journal*, *Monthly Review*, the *New York Times* and *IF Stone's Bi-Weekly*. The library also has extensive files on socialist parties as well as information on current labor happenings and projects. Finally, included in the collection are signed volumes by noted activists including Saul Alinsky and Cesar Chavez.

The Holt Labor Librarian is Hilary Diamond. As a student in Community Studies at SF State, she became radicalized working with the United Farmworkers and later served as the



Holt Labor Librarian Hilary Diamond

coordinator of the *Mobilization to Bring the Troops Home Now Coalition* during the Gulf War. She envisions the collections growing and a greater degree of organization in the near future. She also sees the library supporting oral history projects about the lives of activists, greater involvement in current labor struggles and a video collection being developed. The library is located on the fourth floor of the 50 Fell Street building and its hours are Monday-Thursday (9am-9pm); Friday (9am-5 pm) and Saturday/Sunday 11am-5 pm.

INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ON POVERTY LAW JANUARY 7, 1993



The Inter-University Consortium on Poverty law was held this year at New College where law professors and legal clinic workers from over sixty law schools nation-wide met to discuss new approaches to providing legal services to the poor under the Clinton administration. In his opening remarks to the Consortium, New College President Peter Gabel, JD suggested there would be a struggle in the country, within the administration and even within Clinton's head to determine whether this would become a neo-yuppie, pop-psychology administration, one of Carteresque realism or one that would offer the possibility of transformation and change. Gabel believes that people and organizations such as this will make an important contribution in determining that outcome.

Community Action

JOURNAL

FR. JACK LEARY, FOUNDER EMERITUS RETIRES

Jack Leary, Jesuit priest, philosopher, son of an immigrant Irish mining family, founded New College in his Sausalito living room in 1971 with 14 students and 2500 dollars. Father Leary retired this December to his native Northwest home in Washington state. Leary had returned to New College as Founder Emeritus during the 20th anniversary year in 1991-92 to consult with the administration concerning vision, direction and fiscal matters. He also taught Ethics and Metaphysics in the Humanities Program. 'Jack', as he was known to all, will return to his writing and possibly some teaching at Gonzaga University in Spokane. He served as President there during the 1960's. A reception and going away party was held for him on December 1st at the 777 Valencia Street building which he acquired for the college in 1974 and which was key to receiving accreditation by WASC. Peter Gabel, current New College President, Milly Henry, Dean of Humanities and others spoke movingly of the inspiration, vision and faith that Jack Leary has provided for all of us who follow in his footsteps here. Irish bagpipes and songs by Galway native Deirdre Herbert provided the appropriate cultural background for Jack's departure.



Peter Gabel
speaks of
Leary's
meaning to
the college



Jack with Law
School Dean
Chris Kaino



Jack with Milly Henry
and Genny Lim, Arts faculty



Jack with Kathy
Voutyras



Todd Denman
played the
Ulliean pipes

Poetry Page

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It is a distinct pleasure to offer works from Gloria Frym with this initial Poetry Page of Nineteen-ninety-three. Gloria will also provide the lead for the first reading of the Spring Reading Series on February 11th. I would also like to thank all those you have submitted poems for consideration, unfortunately time and space present certain limitations that have made it impossible to get these works onto the Page.

Dear Father,

This sonnet contains a single amaryllis

In flame against the garage.

A pink and blue sky frames the poor architecture. A car door

Slams, the baby gets angry, this sonnet also contains

A Speed Queen abandoned beneath the backstairs

And a pair of boots kicked off by some outlaw

Who stole through these parts years ago.

At midnight we're lullabyed by drunks with colorful sores

Unbudded by the crimelight in the liquor store

Lot across the street. You'd think

I'd know these lines like I know my own lips.

But I only feel them before the mirror offers them to you.

Father, language fractures the idyll night.

Renaming implies we both get it right.

Dear Father,
The spare change
demanded of you
in a dark parking lot
outside the supermarket
was an ad hoc tax
on the new tweed vest
you happened to don
each morning
to cover the small
but embarrassing stain
beneath your left breast
pocket underneath which
your heart broke daily
into soft currencies
which were rejected indignantly
by people who need
hard cash.

Dear Father,
I can't join the company business.
A dim capacity for wings
Degrades the dress I wear.

Selections from LETTERS HOME

The Spring 1993 Reading Series will offer an unusual array of talent. Starting on February 11th with Poetics Instructor Gloria Frym and NCOC students Janet Jennings and Tiffany Higgins. The series will continue with local poet Andy Clausen followed the next week by English poet Tom Raworth. Among the other events will be a performance by Judy Grahn and Friends, a collaborative reading with Lyn Hejinian and Carla Harryman, and a return visit from former NCOC Poetics chair Duncan McNaughton. There are several other very special events scheduled during the Spring term: In association with Small Press Distribution, curator and moderator Dodie Bellamy will present a panel including Kathy Acker, Earl Jackson, Jr., and Benjamin Weissman discussing "Writing In Extremis. Narrative Strategies at Centuries End"; it will also be the privilege of New College to provide a venue for visiting Russian poet, Arkadii Dragomoschenko. The continuing promise of a successful and exciting Spring Series is enhanced by the occasion of "An Evening with Quincy Troupe". There will be further announcements as to the readers and events of the open dates. The readings will start at 7:30 PM, and unless noted otherwise, taking place at NCOC facilities at 776 Valencia St. between 18th and 19th. The special events not held at 776 Valencia will take place in the Theater at 777 Valencia (these are noted by an * on the schedule. There is a request for a nominal donation from non-NCOC members. For any further information on the Reading Series and/or the Poetics Program please write NCOC Poetics, 776 Valencia, San Francisco, CA. 94110 or call 415 626 0884.

FEBRUARY 11

Gloria Frym
Janet Jennings
Tiffany Higgins

FEBRUARY 18

Andy Clausen

FEBRUARY 25

Tom Raworth

MARCH 4

Adam Cornford, Poetics Chair

MARCH 11

Judy Grahn and Friends*

MARCH 18

Arkadii Dragomoschenko*

MARCH 25

No reading

APRIL 1

Faculty/Student Reading

APRIL 8

Lyn Hejinian and

Carla Harryman

Duncan McNaughton

APRIL 15

Quincy Troupe*

APRIL 22

"Writing In Extremis"

APRIL 29

(In association with Small Press Distribution)

May events to be announced



Photo: Ruth Gordon

Gloria Frym has been a member of the core faculty in Poetics at New College since 1987. She previously taught at San Francisco State University and California College of Arts & Crafts. For several years she worked with prisoners in the San Francisco County Jails. Her first book of short stories, *HOW I LEARNED*, has just been published by Coffee House Press. She is the author of several volumes of poetry, including *BY EAR* (Sun & Moon Press), *BACK TO FORTH* (The Figures), and *IMPOSSIBLE AFFECTION* (Christopher's Books), as well as a book of interviews with women artists, *SECOND STORIES* (Chronicle Books). She lives in Berkeley.

YOUR JOB

Don't wear your beige burnoose to the interview. It covers your talents. I invented you. You must be gallant, you must prove me original. Act as if the night is not the problem of the day. Just do what I say. You believe you can't? I made you believe. Faith is the unwritten book we're asked to read. Just mount the steps to the veranda and worry about it later. Words are always a result. You can only have your own vermillion and even that everyone else thinks they know. They'll volunteer the colors: one says red but it's his red which is not a bad red. We've got other ideas. Don't kiss every lip in town. You haven't been all here all that long.

IN GENDER

I have taken a survey so it is true:
In the sauna more women put their hands on their stomachs than on their breasts though some wipe the sweat off their foreheads when beads break and trickle uncomfortably down their faces.

Do you think I'm the type to go to bathhouses? I'm not but description may be verified.

I have known men and I have known women and you know nothing about me from my telling you this nothing except the ones who know me and you know who you are.

To speak of sex as trope That makes you put your hand on your forehead, often. Or, I have been to war I put my hand on my stomach there too, I grow orchids and cucumbers which can be picked once their spines subside.

Ripeness is all True?

There is a small percentage of Black Blood in Dark White people. You believe this is true and you must see how little it tells you about someone like me.

Emily Dickinson grew bee balm and observed the bees inebriate themselves on their way to the queen and the watching affirmed Shakespeare's desire to suck there where the bee sucks.

I would not tell you I was a flower because your own eyes would see the fiction and poetry is the non-fiction of the unseen.

Nevertheless I might put on my ski cap straighten my tie and pull down my skirt by the hem, arrange my soft parts so you can't use them as targets for practice and yet you must.

It is true, the polls say so. There will be question marks in my statements and exclamation marks in my queries. I might lecture to you and I might elicit what you know already and I will take the sex out of everything I say (when I come see you) or I'll put sex into my very syntax. Either way, you'll be looking for me, discreetly judging my gestures to see if what I've told you is bound to fact.

CUBAN AIDS PATIENTS SPEAK AT NEW COLLEGE



Paul Lianos, Dr. Bernardo Garcia-Pandavene, Dr. Juan Carlos de la Concepcion Raxavach

Late in December at a forum held at New College, two Cuban AIDS patients who reside in sanatoria spoke about the way AIDS is handled in Cuba. The evening was opened with a welcoming statement by Imani Harrington, a poet and activist who has been to Cuba twice in 1990 and 1992. Imani also attended the first national conference on HIV in Cuba and is presently working on a piece exposing issues around the sanatoriums and does direct care in HIV and substance abuse counseling for women. The evening was chaired by Kristin Riley-Lazo, a Cuban American health educator and HIV counselor, who as a lesbian is also studying gay, lesbian and bisexual issues in Cuba. Dr. Bernardo Garcia-Pandavene, who is on the Advisory Board of the HIV and Reproductive Rights Commission at Clinica de la Raza, and sponsor of the lesbian and gay union at Laney College where he is chair of the Foreign Language Department provided political commentary.

Raul Lianos was detected as HIV positive in 1986 and has resided in the sanatorium in Santiago de las Vegas since then. An accountant, 37 years old, he handles almost all the books for the main AIDS sanatorium and is the person most familiar with all the facts and figures relating to AIDS in Cuba. Lianos' presentation emphasized through epidemiological data the success of the Cuban approach in impeding the spread of AIDS.

Dr. Juan Carlos de la Concepcion Raxavach received his medical degree from the University of Havana Medical School in 1986, and began working as a family doctor in the mountains of Guantanamo Province that same year.

Since 1989, he has been working as a staff doctor at the Santiago de las Vegas sanatorium where he also resides as an asymptomatic HIV carrier. He is also one of the architects of Cuba's AIDS education outreach program and founder of the AIDS Information Bureau at the Health Education Center in Havana. His presentation was most powerful when comparing the Cuban health system which provides for almost total care and support while requiring residence in a sanatorium (he is critical of this being a 'requirement') and the U.S. system in which one is 'free to choose' but for most AIDS patients adequate health and social services are beyond their means to use them.

ENCUENTRO !

The end of the semester Arts and Social Change Encuentro was held on December 9th. The presentations included theatre pieces from classes taught by Keith Hennessy and Victoria Rue, videos from classes taught by Maria Luisa Mendonca, a visual art exhibit by students in Doug Minkler's screenprinting class and Juana Alicia Montoya's painting class, and a finale of vocal and instrumental pieces from the Jazz Studies program orchestrated by Herbie Lewis.

C. A. R. E. Community Service Projects

The Center for Community Action, Research and Education at New College is developing collaborative projects and relationships with organizations in the community. These projects are available to students in all programs at New College (Humanities, Weekend College, Law School, Graduate Psychology, Science Institute and Graduate Poetics). The goal is community service and solidarity - matching the resources of the college with the social, political and cultural needs of the community. Thus, while these projects are often able to be incorporated within the student's curriculum as an internship, field study, class project or practicum but are not necessarily designed for that purpose and each student should speak with their advisor concerning this possibility. Also, with some projects, students may participate as groups as well as individually. Some (more are being developed) of the projects which have been or are currently available include:

New College C.A.R.E./Community Health Promotion Resource Center

- Progressive community health resource development including resource library acquisition and maintenance, resource files, media clipping service, health services information, lecture series, etc.

For more information contact: Michael McAvoy, Director, Center for Community Action, Research and Education, New College of California, 777 Valencia St., 861-4168 or 626-1694 x 241.

Humanities Student Project at St. John's Tutoring Center

St. John's Tutoring Center, 15 St & Mission

- Community Organizing: Violence Prevention
- Program Development and Coordination
- Special Youth Projects in Health, Music, Environment, Arts, etc.
- Academic Tutoring

Senior University/Senior Action Network

- Activist and organizing education for Senior Citizens

Coalition to Aid Refugees and Survivors of Torture and War

Trauma: Promotores Program

- Social and mental health support for Central American refugees in San Francisco

Clean Water Action

- Bi-lingual, community based environmental workshops

Volunteer Center of San Francisco

- Community Service leadership work with adolescents

City of San Francisco/Environmental Regulation & Management

- Survey of environmental education programs in SF
- Development of workshop on alternative/non-toxic gardening practices

This past semester marked the beginning of a collaborative relationship between the St. John's Educational Threshold Center and the Center for Community Action, Research and Education at New College. St. John's Educational Threshold Center (SJETC) is a non-profit, non-sectarian, community organization that addresses educational and emotional needs of children in San Francisco's Mission District. SJETC assists elementary and middle school school students who are at risk of failing school. The SJETC After School Tutoring Center provides a non-threatening, nurturing learning environment for children living in a troubled neighborhood. SJETC serves mostly Latino, Asian and African American children.



Malysay Sugoeun, Alison Greg, Heng Im

In addition to facilitating New College students acting as tutors and mentors for the Center, some students have taken on special projects. Recently, Alison Greg, a Humanities student, organized a student art project which culminated in a December show which may travel to other places such as the Intersection for the Arts. Alison, who has had experience with organizing student activists to undertake community projects e.g. Conscious Youth in Santa Fe, hopes to continue with this and other projects at St. John's this spring. Anyone interested in proposing a project in an area such as health, ecology, music, etc. should contact Michael McAvoy at the Center for Community Action, Research and Education at New College, (415) 861-4168.



A Sense of Wonder: The Life of Rachel Carson

On Saturday, February 6 at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, the Center for Respect of Life and Environment, New College C.A.R.E., the Sierra Club, Pesticide Action Network, and Montclair Presbyterian will sponsor a performance of A Sense of Wonder, a play based on the life of Rachel Carson. Carson has been called the "patron saint of the environmental movement". She was a marine biologist best known for her book Silent Spring which alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides.

A Sense of Wonder written and acted by Kaiulani Lee is the story of a woman's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. It is the story of



Rachel Carson

the extremely private Rachel Carson, thrust into the role of controversial public figure. The play was created with the help of Miss Carson's friends and colleagues and with permission of her estate.

Montclair Presbyterian Church is located at 5701 Thorn Hill Drive in Oakland. For more information call: 510-39-1131.

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HUMANITIES STUDENT WORK SUPPORTS ECO-RAPPERS



Audience at EcoRap concert

Recently, New College Humanities student Kristin Leimkuhler has begun working with a Bay Area project call Eco-Rap. Kristin has a background in event production and has worked for over fifteen years in the Bay Area assisting cultural, arts, and political organizations with performances and rallies. Her studies in both the Social Psychology and Arts and Social Change Programs at New College in the last three years have focused her interest towards production which incorporates the social and political needs of youth with artistic mediums which are collaborative in nature. For Eco-Rap's Hip Hop Festival at Civic Center Plaza, Kristin acted as Stage Manager and Technical Coordinator.

Eco Rap is a program which educates young people in inner city communities about environmental concerns and encourages them to give a voice to their own concerns through the medium of rap music. Eco-Rap began in 1991 as the brainchild of Leonard Pitt, one of the artistic directors at Life on the Water Theatre. Rap is a powerful musical force today that can be used to educate and inform the listener through the lyrical content. Eco-Rap is one organization which is breaking new ground in validating the voices of angry youth.

Through presentations in public schools, young rappers are identified and invited to participate in "toxic tours" of their own neighborhoods, where environmental activists escort them in groups to sites where toxic substances are known to be present in the air, water, or ground. Although Greenpeace generously donates the vans and drivers for these tours, the sheer logistics of transportation regrettably limits the number of rappers who can participate. Building on this information, they write new raps which express their responses to what they have learned. The Eco-Raps are per-

formed for a panel of judges who select the top winners in separate age groups classifications. Winners perform at a concert, win prizes which are donated by stores and radio stations, and become new spokespersons for Eco-Rap and environmental organizations.

Although Eco-Rap is still in a fledgling stage, interest is being shown from activists in other U.S. cities and European countries. This Spring Eco-Rap been invited by the Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles to lead a high school program in a community that is still suffering since the King riots. It is encouraging that rap is finally being recognized by community leaders as a powerful part of youth culture which cannot not only express anger but also incite young people to take action against polluters. After identifying the dangers in their own community, a broader perspective connects them to the environmental problem on a national and global scale.

In the words of Sheila Haynes, of Intellectual Tribe:

"Well here we go with the flow as I kick the facts

I'm a young teenager and I'm proud and I'm black

But something doesn't strike me as being proud

Cause my community is poisoned or should I say my town

It is bad and I just could not believe

The toxic in the air that I had to breathe

I breathed all this junk in I could've been dead

Suffering and choking on all this lead."

If you would like more information about Eco-Rap and want to know how you can get involved call Life on the Water Theatre 415/885-2790.

-Tina Murray

Grad Psych Forum: The Politics and Psychology of Family Violence

On January 12th, the Graduate Program in Psychology sponsored a panel to explore and debate core political and psychological and political issues for individuals and communities in addressing family violence and sexual abuse. Included in the discussion were the role of politically conscious mental health workers in the movement to end violence against women, the dynamics of consciousness in a family violence perpetrator, a global and political perspective on violence against women, how violence impacts refugee and immigrant communities, whether or not the experience of sexual abuse has been stereotyped and overgeneralized based on a preoccupation with a victim model, and issues concerning the tension between the battered women's movement as a political movement and as a social service one.

Members of the panel included: Betsy Kassoff PhD., Chair of the Feminist Psychology Program at New College, and previously the Director of Operation Concern. She has written and taught extensively on Lesbian and Feminist Psychology and in her practice works with incest survivors, couples, and consultation; Victor Lewis, Adult Program Director of the Oakland Men's Center who has been active in pro-feminist men's work for ten years; Leni Marin was the President of the SF Commission on the Status of Women, a participant in the international Forum at Stanford "Leading the Way Out: A gathering of Women from Around the World Working to End Violence Against Women", co-organizer of the first conference on Immigrant and Refugee Women, and participant in the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers; and Esta Soler, founder and Executive Director of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, past president of the SF Human Rights Commission and currently a fellow in the Kellogg Fellowship Program.

For more information on this forum and upcoming Graduate Psychology events, please call (415) 861-4168.

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WOMEN FIRST

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

So I said I would write about community; and what do I do? I flip through The Book of Women's Firsts. I don't know who most of these women are. With total disregard for the hurry created by my column deadline, and as I casually skim the entries, I wonder if the women of firsts were the last, the only. I learn that they are not only the first women, they often create the first of something in its category like the first dance school or stellar map of the universe. I wonder how it is that a book of five hundred pages of women's firsts can even be compiled since we are quite often led to believe that we are the least, the last. The denied in me is educated, strengthened by these foremothers of a modern women's herstory.

In the present, the cynic, sceptic in me are puzzled. He actually did it. Bill Clinton has appointed the first women as U.S. Attorney General (Zoe Baird) and White House Press Secretary (Dee Dee Myers). May Hil-

lary Clinton become the first First Lady to succeed her husband as President. And may Chelsea become the first daughter to succeed her mother as President and the first President to win with the first woman Vice President.

Senator Biden scolded Zoe Baird for hiring undocumented immigrants. (He didn't scold Clarence Thomas for being an abuser but, of course, Thomas lied.) That's not the first time justice has not been served in the patriarchal system. I hope that one of the first acts of Baird's stint as Attorney General would have been to prosecute the illegal activities of the Judiciary Committee gang members. Then we could have seen who'd be the first man to say, "yep, I broke the law".

I hope this is the first year in a decade that points to achieving the first time women in this country will have equal representation, fifty-fifty. (No, five senators is not enough.)

The woman who developed Gore's environmental policy has been appointed as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency (Carol Browner). This may be the first, or at least one of the few times, that a man has admitted the woman had the idea first. She is



now able to represent herself for the first time. I hope these are the first signs of the last time women will stand hidden behind their men and, as Virginia Woolf says, reflect men at "ten times their natural size."

I hope these are the first signs of the last time women will suffer disrespect, subjugation, diminishment. This could be the last year that women eye each other suspiciously wondering if each is willing to become her own woman. This could be the last time women make a wistful wish and the first time women know we have power that we can express and use to shape the country according to our views.

This could be the last we ram against closed patriarchal political coalition doors. We have discovered for the first time that a women's coalition like EMILY's List has its own power. May this be the last decade of the boys' club, boys' war toys, boys' night out, boys' sole right to rule.

These first and last are the beginnings of the establishment of community: women's community, world community. This is not the first time these concepts have been the gleam in our eyes. Women around the world, in our own ways, have worked to express our self empowerment. I hope this is the last trial run.

Hillary Clinton scares a lot of men leaders around the world. Their initial reaction has been to scoff, perhaps jeer: a woman as partner to a world leader? Well French men may laugh about women's leadership. English men may laugh about women's bonding. Fundamentalist men of all cultures may laugh about women's freedom. All the while as women around the world come together, donating our individual patch to the quilt, we are making a vision in this communal gathering. As sisters we come together to converse in community, to create a whole cloth, to laugh with the joy of our successes. We will know, discuss, attest that it is the she who laughs last and rules best.

The first woman White House Press Secretary recently said in an address to the Gridiron Club for journalists that has only a few women members, "I'll bet that right now there are more women in Bob Packwood's office than in this room."

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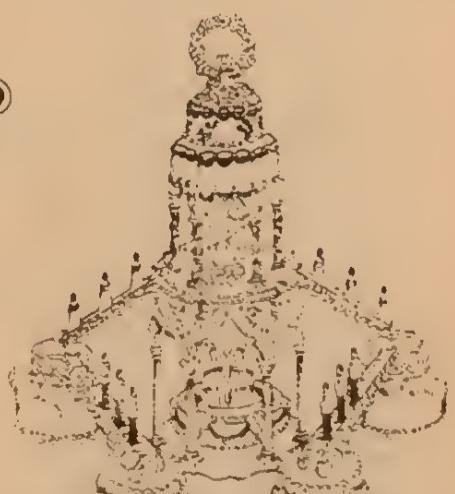
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NOTES FROM ROSALIE HOUSE

by Blesilda Ocampo

Working at Rosalie House has made me stronger, nevertheless, I am often shocked by the violent life histories the women who come here have shared with me. Conversations always focus on the brutality of the homes they have fled:

"He used to beat me because dinner wasn't ready. He would drag me down the hallway by the hair yelling all kinds of obscenities at the top of his lungs," said Martha.

"I tried so hard to be the perfect wife. I washed his clothes and took care of our children. But what that man put me through wasn't worth it," she concluded.

"My husband started beating me when I was pregnant," Sophie shared, tears welling up.

"I saw it coming though. He used to just verbally abuse me. But when I got pregnant, he started getting physical. He just could not take the responsibility. The beatings caused me to miscarry," tears were running down her cheek. There was a moment of silence while someone next to Sophie held her hand.

"Why do they do this?" she asked, exasperation painting her face.

"I don't know," answered Gwen. "They're all assholes!" A chorus of laughter tinged with sadness filled the room.

Tina, who has not said a word all night, sat up, looked at the floor and said, "I'm scared of my husband. I can't even go out into the street without feeling like he's going to find me and blow my brains out. He told me he killed someone before. And I believe him when he says he will kill me if he finds me."

She looked at the group and said, "He owns a shotgun."

"Shit!" somebody muttered under her breath.

Martha puffed on her cigarette and said, "Mine owns one, too. Girl! You better be glad you're not there anymore. I'm looking to get the hell out of state."

"Well, my batterer is just a puny little guy," shared Linda, a small, pregnant African-American painter on the couch.

"But he has this sort of frenzied energy that makes him buzz around. I could've been a fairly successful painter by now. In fact, I was doing pretty well until he took a knife and slashed my painted canvases one night after getting drunk."

"My husband is crazy," said Cory with a thick Filipino accent.

children. Their rage was in the air and seen in the way women talk about it.

Sometimes, however, women turn this rage inward and become depressed. With support, they recognize that the behavior of their batterers was out of their control and learn that they were not to blame for their victimization.

The men who batter are men with intel-



EVEL
95

"He uses cocaine. That's all he spends his money on. I ended up paying for our rent with my welfare money. I only had a few dollars left for clothes and other necessary things."

Thrown together by one commonality — that they were battered by the men they cared about, women from different backgrounds shared stories that were eerily similar. They claimed their right to be angry and to have a non-violent life for them and for their

intelligence, with good jobs, with low intelligence and without jobs, who are or are not drug users; Caucasian, Asian, African-American and Latino.

Women often describe their batterer's personality as charming, but with a Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde split. All of them abuse emotionally — calling the women degrading names, accusing them of seeing other men while they themselves are often seeing other women.

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Neighborhood BEAT

MUNI CUTS

by Brian Doohan

It was just another installment in the MUNI ride from hell - half an hour waiting for the 14 at Third and Mission, bus already packed, shooting by stops thronged with angry midday commuters, shoving, brawls, blood... a ten minute layover while the driver had an emotional breakdown at 17th street, calling in to Headquarters to ask what was going on... 21 blocks in an hour and fifteen minutes.

On January 26th, the Public Utilities Commission released its MUNI plan which will make that ride look like the good old days.

The City is broke, and absent any show of will from the Mayor or Supervisors to spread the pain around, departments like MUNI are going to take the sort of hit that might finally put the City to sleep. The charter reform task force chaired by Sup. Carole Migden is rapidly moving towards removing MUNI from the grip of Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg (who also runs the BBI through the Dept. of Public Works), but even this reform may be a little too late.

The proposals:

- * Fare increases to at least \$1.25...
- * Reduction or elimination of transfers, a de-facto doubling or tripling of fares...
- * Service cuts... that would

Eliminate the 12-Folsom and 14-L lines in the Mission as well as such routes as the 2-

Clement, 32-Embarcadero, 39-Coit/Telegraph and 47-Van Ness...

End service at 12:30 AM for most lines, thus writing "finis" to San Francisco's nighttime entertainment industry and its jobs...

Shorten key routes like the 21-Hayes, 26-Valencia, 45-Union and 67-Bernal; isolate Bayview/Hunter's Point by cutting off 19-Polk and terminating the 33-Stanyan and 22-Fillmore at Potrero.

A relative handful of citizens protested the proposed cuts, their numbers small due to the woeful noticing procedure that brought threats of litigation, primarily from civil rights groups who interpret the isolation of black neighborhoods as racist and from the disabled and elderly who face long walks or wheels up high hills to go along with punitive fare increases.

"The elected representatives from the disabled community's MUNI advisory committee were never notified," complained Edward Evans who wheeled into the hearing room in his Jordan for Mayor t-shirt to blast the Commission, including Hizzoner's newest appointee, Kay Yu. Among the proposed service cuts are measures which would put MUNI in conflict with the recently passed Federal Disability Act, and in a distinct disadvantage in potential litigation.

Earlier in the meeting the Commission elected Yu President, dividing down the line between Jordan appointees and Agnos holdovers. The election of this perhaps qualified but procedurally inexperienced President, which intensified the pre-existing rancor be-

tween Commissioners, nearly lead to a fatal error as Yu, in making a motion to raise fares on the Ballpark Express to \$5 each way asked for "a \$1 fare" omitting the key word "increase". The motion passed unanimously but was subsequently corrected by a forgiving Commissioner James Jefferson.

Earlier Jefferson (an Agnos remnant) advised a student who had offered an intelligent critique of the fare raise/service cut proposal to apply for a management position, nodding at PUC Director Thomas Elzey whose anticipated ouster is expected to further inflame the PUC's internal dysfunctionality and the City's racial tensions.

Generational conflicts accompanied the ethnic ones. "Those old people who can afford Giants and 49ers tickets can afford another dollar for the MUNI," an attorneyish looking participant smirked as the procession of people in wheelchairs and on canes culminated in one elderly man's threats of senior riots.

There will probably be further MUNI hearings, and there has been a tendency to release worst-case scenarios early so that the real cuts can be presented to the public as rational compromises, but it looks like, this time, the jig is up. Shown a copy of the latest proposal, a high ranking official in a non-MUNI scanned it, noting the fare increases and service cuts and threw it aside, exclaiming "that's it for San Francisco".

TAX TIPS

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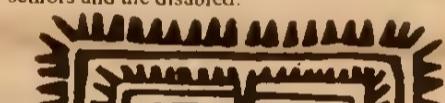
Every year you fill out your form early, and then sit and wait 6, 8 or 10 weeks for that Federal refund. There is a way to file your return electronically. This paperless transmission of your return by way of phone lines allows your return to bypass that time-consuming initial processing by the IRS and lets them get to the important part... the issuing of your refund check.

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Jackson Hewitt Tax Service is located at the corner of 2101 Mission Street at 17th (inside Thrift Town), telephone: 621-FAST.

DEATH TIPS

Death: - put the fun back in art-making with a workshop on Exquisite Corpses, Poem-Objects and the Art of Dada with Pamela Lanza. 10 Thursday sessions beginning Jan. 29th, \$250 (maybe she'll give you a discount since the first one's dead 'o gone). Call 777-1474 to register. Or join the Hemlock Society and stay abreast of Euthanasia, Organ Harvesting, Dr. K., meet Right To Die advocates at international conventions like the 1992 bash in Kyoto, Japan and receive members' rates on timely books like "Common Sense Suicide", "Dying in Prison" and "Let Me Die Before I Wake" and the Hemlock Bible "Final Exit", 30 signed copies of which were recently stolen from the car of author Derek Humphry, prompting the investigating detective to comment: "I hope the criminal element in this city makes good use of them." You can reach the San Francisco chapter at 346-2073. \$25/30 yearly membership, discounts for couples, seniors and the disabled.



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CARNIVAL SAN FRANCISCO

MEMORIAL DAY 1993
COUNTDOWN
with C. M. Collins

LET THE CARNAVAL SEASON BEGIN: Newcomers are advised that while participation may make you a star or restore your faith in the human race only a whole lot of fun is guaranteed....Official kickoff is the 24th annual Brazilian Carnaval Ball at the Galleria (Sat. 2/20, 101 Henry Adams St. info-334-0106), *Escola Nava, Aquarela, Samba Cruz plus Celia Malheiros & her Brazilian All Star Big Band* will be featured but everybody's a star and the costume contest has its best prizes ever. Insider tip for contest aspirants--Costume designer Alcx of *Imagination Studio* rules (info--863-3651). Best wishes to the new blood in charge of this event (not another Roberto) and their ambitious plans for the coming yearElsewhere on the planet this weekend, the greatest shows on earth (Trinidad, Brazil, New Orleans & many cities in Europe) will be bursting forth in collective joy & triumph of the human spirit. This year, a goodly amount of the Carnaval San Francisco (C'SF) braintrust will be in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil--the African spiritual capital of the New World. Wish me luck bringing video back of Carmen De Arcy, Carlos Aceituno, Kip Ferris, Betho Filho, Rosanna Brito, Conscsau Damasceno, 60+ students,friends & family , the trickster Eshu [Reach into the dark}, as well as the great music, dance and soul

ROOTS OF CARNAVAL: The name is a byproduct of the unwritten truce between the Christian Church and the Dionysian pagan impulse to release the human spirit from society's repression at springtime. Unable to suppress or control, the animal nature and spiritual fervor of this holiday the church settled for marking its ending--48 days before the full moon after the spring equinox--with the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday where the holy begin their observation of 40 days of fasting and prayer before the Rebirth of Christ the Redeemer on Easter Sunday. The church got the name from two Latin roots which together mean *farewell to the flesh* and the shadow side of ourselves.

SIGN-UP SOON: Big Caribbean news out of the East Bay is the split (again) of triple crown Grand Prize winner *Mas Makers*. *D'Midas Associates* inherits much of the leadership including Tomi Tabu & Cellesse Johnson and the South Bay Trinis while *Mas Maker Massive* will be anchored by Stephen & Colleen Tiffonson. C'92 spin-off *All Ah We* (2nd overall in C'92) and *Bca Watson's Mas Revellers* are also progeny of what some now say is an officially retired group...Also a hot topic, the new date and politics of *Carnival Oakland*, my vote--the Friday evening before Memorial Day Sunday. Trinity growth: also the *Santa Cruz Carnival* parade is expected to be back with a May date....The month of May is named after the earth goddess Maia, with Spring at its peak , it is a month known for community celebration. MECA's Roberto Hernandez has announced that this year's C'SF theme will be *Tribute to Mother Earth*....After 13 years and 3 years of Channel 7 TV coverage CARNAVAL-San Francisco is still at the brink of being recognized as the great annual event the Bay Area needs to unify itself as an international city-state gateway for the 21st century where all the Americas meet the Pacific Rim, until we connect, the only way to catch the Carnaval Spirit is to join in. Look around the Inner Mission, watch for signs and synchronicities and you will find a group to hook up with for their CARNAVAL-93 production. If you do not wish to perform, you can volunteer to help one of the contingents, grade schools, or the Cinco de Mayo & Carnaval-SF event producer, MECA @826-1401.

MAY IS THE
MYTH & MAGIC
MONTH IN THE
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MAKE PLANS NOW

CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN 1992 AWARDS

Best Song: *Fusion of Nature & Fantasy* by Ginga Brasil's Mestre Beicola w/ Pablito, Luisinho & Marco of L.A. Other Hits: *Bryant School's Salsa on the Nile*; *Hijas de Orfeo's Califa* and anything by *Mas Maker's* high-rent Trini import Traffix (Remember to submit on cassette to Marcus Gorden for official judging)

Welcome Back: *Kulintang Arts & the Puerto Rican Club* who are both expected to be bigger & better in C'93

Best youth group: *Plumfield School* from Santa Rosa directed by Richard Baudrand We need more youth baterias--Drums for Guns, \$88 for instructors!

Most Improved: Incredibly enough, *Mas Makers* which lost much leadership to *All Ah We* would not be denied the unprecedented Triple Crown of the Grand Prize, Other noteworthy groups *Hijas de Orfeo* and *Jamaican Association*.

Best Babe: on a float: Monica Caldwell of *Sambaa Para a Pova* on the street; Iramar of Ginga Brazil their "Madrina da Bateria" Street & Float: *Zanla de Faga na Raupa*

Best Hunk: King Ian DeSilva who did the parade a second time in loin cloth and cape with *All Ah We*

Worst Trend: Pure commercial entries like the Budwieser Clydesdales and KBHK Radio at least Chevrolet's Marie Brooks got in costume.

Best Float: Kip Ferris for his group *Foga na Raupa* which dressed as pre-Columbian Americans dancing on the wreckage of the last 500 years while heading into the next 500 years.

Best Trend: The two strong multi-sectioned Bolivian groups going all out. (Bolivia has the purest pre-Columbian blood in the Americas).

Best Section: Devil Dancers of *Grupo Andino Los Caparaos* out of LA (Official Award perhaps for C'93? Ask Marcus of MECA)

Pushing the envelope: Chalo & Escala Nava's two-block sound system

Radical Amazement Award: Lichen & A Waking Dream for their *Corporate Cannibalism* Float with the primitive jazz, a great finish to the greatest parade ever for the SF Bay Area

Best Reason to Add Third Judge in Each Award Category: the First Place in "Open" Dance won by *Latin American Workout* (e.g. one Brazilian, one Caribbean & one Other for each of the four main criteria, dance, music, visual, & costume)

A few to watch for C'93 Maria Sousa of *Sambao* or *Aquerela*, Doug von Koss of *Hijos de Orfeo* or the *Noah Project*, the Oakland based *Caribbean Cultural Association's* Lenworth Gorden, Sweetwater the DJ/promoter, Blanche Brown and Ghede and as always Roberto Hernandez of MECA.

KGO-TV/Broadcast/Media Watch

Best Line: "For me Carnaval is like food for our souls. One time a year, it's incredible!" Roberto Barrell of *Mission Cultural Center*

Best TV announced theme (C'91 also) Esplendor Aztec Xipetotec "The White Eagle Dance symbolizes the eternal battle between man or women's spiritual and physical self."

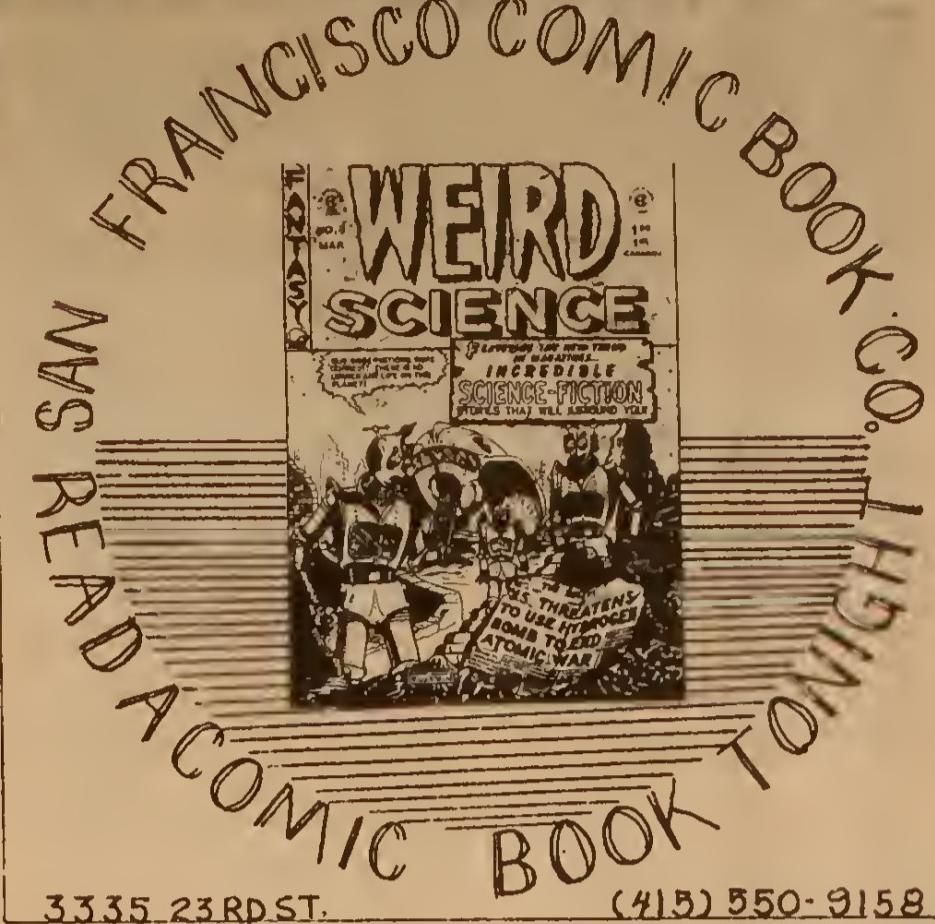
Best Sylvia Ramirez Produced Segment: the King & Queen focus where Queen Rosanna Brito declared "It's light, joy, peace with the whole world, just integrating with everything around you. and King Ian DeSilva articulated, "That's what Carnaval really is, the letting go and the sharing of something without getting something, without getting back anything in return but the enjoyment and satisfaction of other people enjoying what you are doing. That feeling cannot be described." Would be in poor taste to mention the perfection of the buns displayed by this royal pair?

Most Important Message Communicated: It begins with the children or as delivered by the principle of the Mission's *Bryant Elementary School*, Barbara Karvalls, "All children of all cultures love to dance. It makes them feel happy and it raises their self-esteem Bridging the community cultural aspect and bringing that into the schools...brings everyone together in a different way just to have fun and enjoy life."

Missing in Action: Local Media gave less than half the column inches from last year to the parade on top after scaring the hell out of the Bay Area about coming to the Inner Mission in the wake of the Rodney King riots.

Best Rumor that did not pan out: The parade would open on the ABC-TV station in Los Angeles. Watch this space next month for important C'SF TV development story.

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SPEARMAN A HIT AT RADIO VALENCIA

Though the Mission cradles numerous coffeehouses, bars and restaurants fitting the former description, Radio Valencia (located on Valencia at the corner of 23rd Street) is particularly unique because it serves not only an inexpensive, multi-ethnic menu, but owner Don Allen's love for original music serves an essential part to one's visit. The CD jukebox stocks a definitive collection of local and international artists who regard their special brands of music extensions of life and inherent individualism.

This month, Radio Valencia hosts a Sunday night series (shows usually start around 8 PM with a five dollar cover) of free-form acoustic jazz. Most notably, sax tenor maven Glen Spearman fronts these uncategorizable ventures. Accompanied by either members of his trio G-Force (Donald Robinson plays percussion and Ben Lindgren plays bass) or other paragons of avant-garde jazz, Spearman and Allen offer the Mission a personable performance space with Radio Valencia.

Glen Spearman immediately strikes me as a man who has always had control of his destiny. Recently, I met with Spearman at Radio Valencia, where that night he would perform bold, efficacious sets of what may be termed "improvisational" jazz with friend/skilled guitarist James Routhier.

A native of New York City, the eleven year-old Spearman moved to Concord, CA with his mother when his parents divorced. His father was an opera singer; later, when his mother remarried jazz pianist David Ellis, Spearman had his first introduction to formal music lessons. Obviously, Spearman's childhood was not one devoid of a musical presence.

Continuing to practice saxophone, Spearman also went on to become an All-Northern California football player, earning himself numerous scholarship offers. Choosing

Colorado State, he recalls a campus that maintained racially-segregated policies towards the handful of black students. He returned to the Bay Area after two years, attending San Jose State's more integrated and open-minded campus.

There, Spearman was seduced by the avant-garde sounds expanding from traditional jazz and blues. It filled his world, aligning itself naturally with the fervent moods and attitudes from anti-war protest and African-American liberation. "I was really a product of my times," Spearman observes. "All that fervor and the Black Panthers and Malcolm X... that's really part of my history. The music fit into that whole ambiance. It was the logical thing to do if you wanted to be an artist, as far as I was concerned."

While a scene inspired by the passionate, transmutable style of avant-garde jazz developed in the Bay Area, musicians could hardly make a living. So, in 1972, Spearman set off with a one-way ticket to Europe. "The political action over (in Europe) was very, very heavy. They identified the music I played with a strong, political undercurrent... I thought, 'THIS is it!'

Spearman soon found himself making a substantial living touring Europe, broadcasting on French and Dutch radio, cutting three albums and, basically, learning his craft and his business. "As a relatively young man, it was great opportunity for me to perform, to have a working band. It's so different in (the U.S.) to play this music anywhere, especially on a regular basis," Spearman says.

However, the tension and challenge fundamentally rooted in jazz seemed to lack in an atmosphere that readily embraced Spearman as a musician. He returned to the States in 1978, to the "scuffle in New York City". Joining trumpeter Raphe Malik's band, Spearman's dream to perform with piano virtuoso Cecil Taylor was realized five years later in 1983.



TENOR SAXOPHONIST GLENN SPEARMAN

"That was my goal, and I accomplished it... to be hired by (Taylor) is a real feather in my hat," Spearman marvels. Hiring only four or five tenors in his career, Taylor asked Spearman to participate in all three of his groups - the Dance Orchestra, the Big Band, the Smaller Unit - for an entire year. Absorbing the innovative, prehensile techniques of Taylor's work, Spearman asserts, "Cecil is the Grand Master. One of two or three architects of this type of music... he's got all the information. He's the one who put the years - the TIME - and the articulation into this particular art form I'm involved in. Perhaps he's the best practitioner of it.

And what is "it" all about? This sinuous, strange tapestry of modern tempos and rhythms? "People assume 'free jazz' or 'improvised music' is not composed. I think the most interesting part to what I play is I have a composition as a launching pad... I have to structure it. Eighty percent of it is what I do with that material; it's about how it's treated. THAT's the art," Spearman explains.

Understanding how to combine the essence of improvisation with the essence of tonality is, in Spearman's opinion, the key. "Standard jazz formats like that of, say, Wynton Marsalis don't interest me musically. He's interesting for me as a phenomenon, as a social historian, as one who's eloquent in speaking about music; but in terms of the advance on the instrument, it's too retro. It's like reviving the fifties... essentially, playing what Miles Davis or Clifford Brown played. There's nothing wrong with that, since that

music will live on forever, yet the state of the art is quite different in my art form."

Adding it is necessary to distinguish "between your art's embodiment and what's popularly accepted," Spearman contends the extension of the traditional jazz format is where the adventure lies. Presently residing in Oakland, Spearman considers himself more of a jazz/song traditionalist compared to the mutant punk irreverence of New York improv-musician John Zorn. With the emergence of experimental improv music, Spearman and Zorn have been thrown in the collective "weird jazz" barrel that people have a hard time defining; and while Spearman and colleagues like saxophonist Larry Ochs (who fronts a trio called "Room") often come together in various ensembles to perform, the diversity between schools is quite apparent.

Spearman's group, G-Force and Ochs' Room currently play the circuit as The Glen Spearman Double Trio. With a release due out this summer on the Milan-based Black Saint label (titled "Mystery Project"), Spearman feels "it's my most international chance for exposure with this particular band."

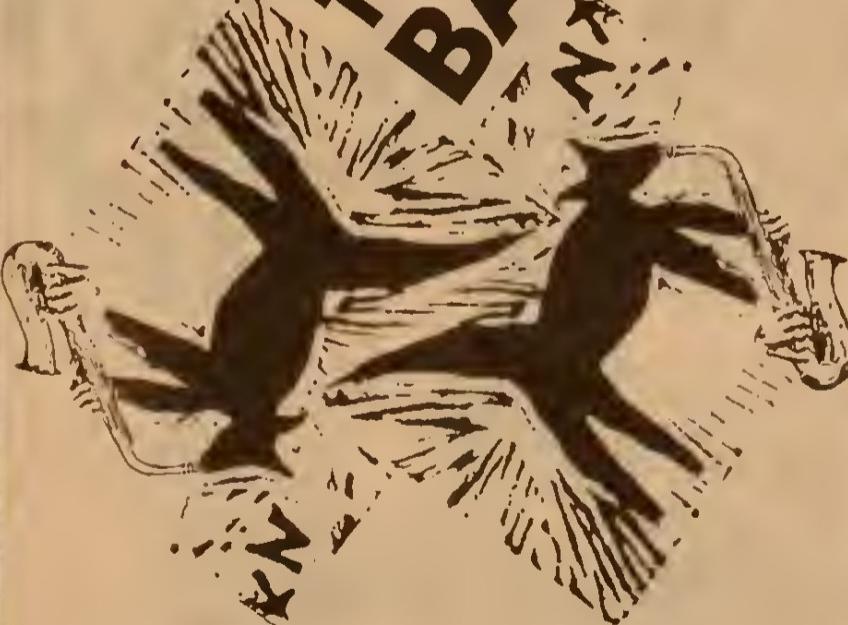
Radio Valencia's Sunday series will present these musicians in duets and, sometimes, trios. For Spearman, playing at an intimate cafe with a friend or two is good living.

Kristy O'Rell

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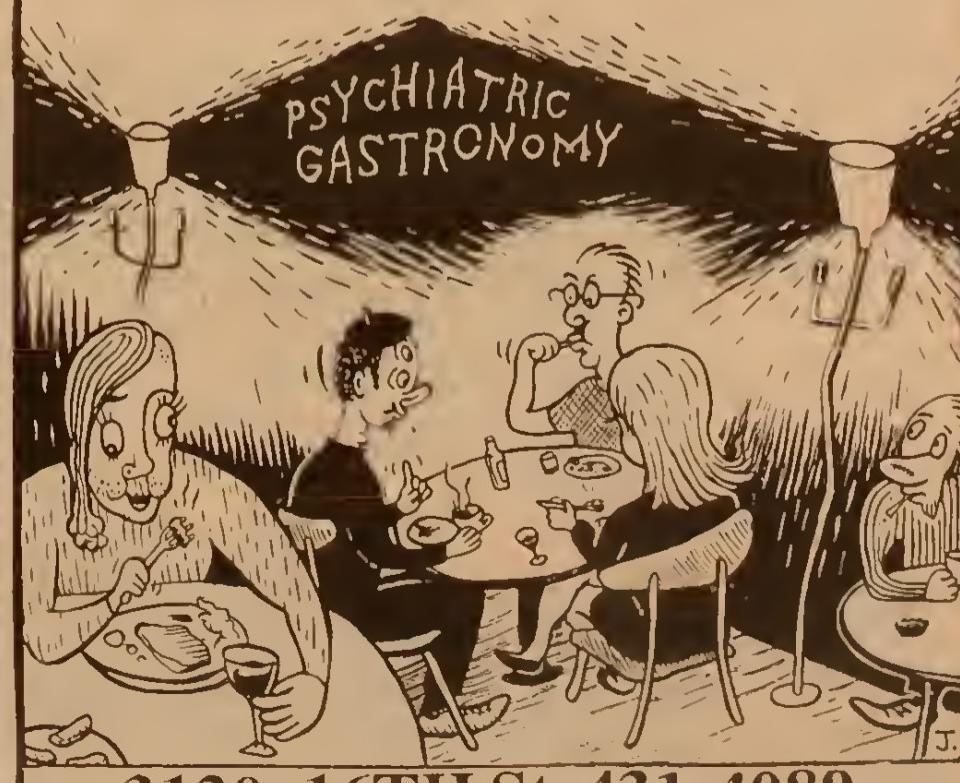
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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

MANDINGA MUSIC PART II

Last month the deep roots and tradition of Mandinga music was reviewed. Today, the countries of Mali and Guinée in West Africa are the main ground for Mandinga popular music which is popular throughout Francophone West Africa. However, Paris is the production center and many top musicians reside there.

The biggest stars are Salif Keita and Mory Kante whose modern "electro-griot" (the griots, or jali, being the hereditary musicians who have been the cultural custodians since ancient times) music has gained a worldwide audience. In the early seventies both of them were young members of the Rail Band de Bamako, a 16 piece orchestra which was the house band at the train station in the capital of Mali. The Rail Band mixed Mandinga music with Cuban, Congolese, jazz and soul. Salif's vocal talent with the Rail Band led to his reputation as "the golden voice of Africa".

In the mid-seventies, Salif Keita left the Rail Band with Guinean Kante Mansila to join Les Ambassadeurs, another big band mixing African, Latin and Caribbean music. Salif says, "our aim was to mix modern rhythms and textures into local rhythms and come up with a new music..." Following the great Bembuya Jazz of Guinée who modernised Mandinga music and brought it to West Africa and beyond, Les Ambassadeurs relocated to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, known as the Paris of Africa. It was here that they became a truly international band. Rounder records has recently released some classic material of theirs on a CD entitled, Les Ambassadeurs Internationales featuring Salif Keita. Its five cuts show the variety of styles they played while Salif's magical voice soars. In 1977 President Sékou Touré of Guinée awarded him the National Order for Cultural Contributions to Africa.

Salif Keita left the band in 1980 and relocated to Paris. Eventually he assembled a group of top session musicians to record a

state-of-the-art record, "Soro". This fusion of African, funk, rock and jazz featured a big jazzy horn section, funky bass, both African & rock guitar, lush, synthesized keyboards and an ecstatic female vocal chorus.

"Soro" remains as perhaps the most significant African record production to date and its release in 1987 brought Salif to the international stage. The following year, "electro-griot" Mory Kante had a huge international dance hit with the song "Yeke Yeke" from his Akwaaba Beach record.

The band in which these two began, the Rail Band, has continued its residency at the train station in Bamako and they have a superb new release simply titled "Super Rail Band de Bamako". Fara C's description in the liner notes says it best: "High voices and undulating melodies, multicolored brass and disbelieved guitars fuel the golden locomotive of Bamako, which ride the rails, chugging the savanna blues to urban Mandinga rock."

Sekouba Bambino Diabate, a former singer in Bembuya Jazz, released his second solo recording, "Le Destin", in 1992. Recorded in Abidjan, it sold 160,000 copies in West Africa in 3 months. "Le Destin" deserves praise for its tasteful mix of traditional instruments like the n'goni, cora, balafon and djembe with electric instruments and programming. Diabate stands out as yet another amazingly powerful voice singing from the Mandinga traditions.

One cannot mention Mandinga music without mentioning the women singers, for it is the women who are most popular for their "animation" and praise singing while men are more usually known as instrumentalists. Only recently with the fabulous singer Oumou Sangare's "Mousoulou" and the excellent Women of Mali compilation (on Stern's) have we had access to traditional women's singing.

Other names to look for are Ami Koita and Fanta Damba. As more becomes available, watch this column for a Women of Africa special.

Viva la Musica!

THE GAVIN REPORT



Photo by Ken Holt

IT THING: (l-r) MARK ZANANDREA, JIM LYONS, MATTY STAHT and MELLIE CLARIN.

by Kristy O'Rell

A

An anthem for the Gavin Convention?

If you know a musician (or are a musician yourself, or you work at a nightclub with bands, or you deal with the banalities of music media), you'd approve.

Radio's top-notch, industry-by-numbers trade magazine The Gavin Report is putting on another mosh event this month. Most folks who know about it have either hands-on experience or have heard the woes of drunk, garulous label reps, scatter-brained organizers, etc.

It's not anticipated like Carnaval.

At the same time, people involved with music who are stupid enough to ignore the Gavin Convention shouldn't blame anyone but themselves if they don't get their precious record contract. While San Francisco bands generally have the collective charm of laid back do-gooders, many go further and refuse · THEY ABHOR! - promoting their bands and themselves. Especially when the Gavin circus comes to town.

Now, let me direct you to Mission nightspots that will feature great bands that certainly deserve some of the accolades in this business. The showcases mentioned below constitute the Mission and not the South of Market. While SOMA is physically part of the Mission, I choose to omit the area (with the exception of the delightful Spike's Cafe) because promoting SOMA is like promoting Bill Graham Presents. Most of these clubs will honor the prestigious GAVIN BADGE.

Finally, I'd like to add two things: 1) Locally, The Gavin Report staff has worked hard to integrate San Francisco acts with the migratory flock of other bands who come in for the GC. Volunteers like The Mommyheads' Adam Cohen have done exceptional work as liaisons between clubs and The Gavin Report.

2) If you never go out to see what is

defined as "local music", now is a perfect time. Support is through numbers. Besides, with all the dorks running around, you are guaranteed to find lost money or cool artifacts from all over the country. It's great!

BOTTOM OF THE HILL (1233 17th & Texas): Wed. 2/10, 9:30 PM, The Mommyheads, Cylinder and Isabell's Vision, \$4; Thurs. 2/11, 9:30 PM, Bedlam Rovers, The Stimmies and Trunk, \$5; Fri. 2/12, 10 PM, Kai Kin (CD release party and, by the way, nominated for a prestigious SAMMIE award, Sacramento's version of a BAMMIE!), Stone Fox and Mason Lane, \$5; Sat. 2/13, 10 PM, Red Devils, The Loved Ones, \$5. Gavin badges will be honored for all shows.

CHAMELEON (853 Valencia between 19th & 20th): Fri. 2/12, Untamed Youth, Supercharger; Sat. 2/13, Les is Moore, All You Can Eat. \$4 cover.

ELBO ROOM (647 Valencia between 17th & 18th): All shows are one (count 'em! ONE!!) buck, with Gavin badges in for free. Wed. 2/10, 9:30 PM, It Tbing, The Buckets, The Sarnos; Thurs. 2/11, 9:30 PM, Little My, Porch, The Kents; Fri. 2/12, 10 PM, The Broun Fellinis; Sat. 2/13, 10 PM, Hieronymus Firebrain with Fibulator.

EL RIO (3158 Mission at Army) Saturday, 2/13, 10 PM, Johnny's Problem, Genuine Diamelles, WolfTicket. Gavin badges honored.

PAULA'S CLUBHOUSE (3160 16th between Valencia & Guerrero): Sat. 2/13, 9 PM Skarkbait, \$5. Gavin badges honored.

SPIKE'S CAFE (139 8th St at Minna) Gavin badges honored. Thurs. 2/11, 8 PM, Racer Records showcase with Wonder Boy, Big Umbrella, Garden Variety, Amy X, Nuremberg, #5; Fri. 2/12, 9:30 PM, Myself a Living Torch, 7-day Diary, \$4; Sat. 2/13, 9:30 PM, Alias Records showcase with The Loud Family, X-Tal (whose upcoming EP is fantastic), Cartoon Smile, Matt Keating, \$4.

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CAT WOMAN

She has a Janis Joplin face, that is, after someone had taken another piece of her heart - except! - she looks like whoever it was who did the taking did not stop at just another piece of her heart; they took the whole thing... and what they left behind would make even sadness cry.

I am drinking coffee in the Club Cafe on Valencia Street, working on what I believe will be the next great American novel (written - of course - by me) when I look up and I see a girl with a fixed non-stop stare staring at me. Surely, I tell myself, this girl is able to recognize the man who is writing the next great American novel.

But no.

I am forced to notice she is staring at whatever it is that is directly behind me! And what is directly behind me is a very blank, dull wall.

Upon realizing this, I tell myself (to be sure) that this all is not helping my, what my psych calls, my extreme rejection complex.

So me and my extreme rejection complex, feeling totally vanquished, wander down Valencia Street to the La Boheme Cafe.

I continue to work on my novel and when I glance up -

there she is (I)...

The same girl with the same constant non-stop stare. But! - this time she is staring at another dull blank wall. And now she has with her a shoe-box size animal carrying case, that she has placed directly in front of her. This placement is so whatever is inside the carrying case can see her, and she can watch whatever she has in there, which has to be watching her.

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last, she is going to finally give it to me — meaning: give me shit (cat shit that is...)!

I look at the cat's eyes, inside the cage, looking at me. It could be worse, I tell myself, she could have Tweety Bird locked up inside her shoe-box size animal carrying case, with the cat. Then what? My mind flashes back to

Psych 101 and to the word EMPATHY. I start thinking about how the cat inside the box must feel being locked up all day-day after day-for most of the days of his/her life. Then I think about a s/m couple I know where she locks her s/m lover in a big bird cage like cage. And are you ready for this? He likes being kept in his human size bird cage (he feels totally secure and —get this—WANTED). And she loves keeping him in his cage (she—of course—knows where he is all the time and knows she has complete and slavish devoted love from him). He's happy. She's happy. A perfect couple? True love?

Knowing how these s/m lovers feel, I think about the word EMPATHY, my psych 101 class, and how the cat in the shoe box cage might feel. Perhaps — just perhaps? the cat "gets off" being her prisoner locked day after day inside a shoe box? Who knows?

Is it wrong for a homeless girl to be homeless? Is it wrong for a homeless person alone trying to fight the many things being homeless means that you have to fight — is it wrong to want a companion, a friend, someone, something/anything to talk to — even if the thing you keep to talk to can't talk to you?

Is it wrong to "bond" yourself to something you keep locked up in a cage. Then we should put to the wall, and shoot, all the people who pay to get into a zoo to see just that. (I have been told by zoo keepers attendance zooms out of sight during the "mating season". Now - what's all that about? But — we all know — what that is all about!)

So - I look at the cat girl. And I look at the cat's eyes peering out of the bars in front of the animal cage.

Not knowing who to feel more sorry for, the homeless cat girl, or, the homeless cat girl's cat, I do what the twelve wise men told me to do in situations like this:

I PRETEND EVERYTHING IS JUST FINE.

Then it happens—

I click my selector button ON, in my mind, to the 24 hour cartoon channel.

And I see Tweety Bird climb out between the cat carry case bars. Then, Tweety Bird does a funny little Charlie Chaplin tap dance in front of the cage. Tweety Bird smiles: a smile as big as a big, big, blue sky.

Then Tweety Bird flaps his wings, and with a big laugh, flies away, leaving behind him the sound of laughter.

Then, a funny looking rabbit pops up, chomping on a funny looking carrot, and says:

"That's all, folks."

Al Rose

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TURNING KIDS ON TO SCIENCE

by Gary Byrd

On January 14, 1993, backpack toting students began their first day of the Spring semester at Mission Campus, City College of San Francisco. Among the older and taller students climbing the stairs to class were students of a different age — grade schoolers. They were heading to room 209.

Behind the door numbered 209 is The Mission Science Workshop/Taller De Ciencias. Lawyer turned scientist, Daniel Sudran, created this mini-Exploratorium for students of all ages, but youngsters seem to be most fascinated with it.

Last July, the San Francisco Examiner published a racial and ethnic breakdown of U.S. bachelor-degree recipients in science and engineering in 1987. White students earned an overwhelming 85% of the bachelors, while Hispanics, Asians and Afro-Americans each received roughly 5% of the degrees.

The article went on to say that the gender gap in science and engineering degrees is similarly lopsided; there is an "80-20 male-female split".

Sudran, 48, wants to change the statistics by piquing the Mission youth's interest in science.

Over a year ago, Sudran noticed that kids in his neighborhood came nosing around his garage when he was tinkering with a science project.

Sudran, a professor at City College, Main Campus, approached the head of his Engineering and Technology Department with the idea of starting a mini-Exploratorium and requested a classroom where he could set up exhibits.

Soon he had room 209 (sharing it with an evening woodworking class) at Mission Campus. After rounding up microscopes, oscillators and other equipment that the community college loaned him, he began marketing his

interactive science "class".

Through guest lectures at local schools and the public radio station, Sudran encouraged students to come learn by doing at the Workshop.

He was successful. Altogether, 60 kids participated in the program last semester; 90% of them live in the Mission. On a given day, 10-20 students are adventuring through the science playroom.

The community-outreach program's primary financial and technical support is from the Exploratorium Teacher Institute and the City College of San Francisco.

An exhibit center and a work station are the two central areas. The exhibits are working science "toys" similar to ones at the Exploratorium.

For instance, one exhibit titled "Hot Spot" amplifies sound using heat. The student sits, facing a concave dish 3 feet high and 4 feet wide. A heater behind the student blows hot air into the reflective dish, where it is reflected and focused back at the student's head. When the student puts his or her mouth at the heat's focus point and whispers, a friend standing 20 feet behind the student can clearly hear the whisper. "Hot Spot" is just one of about 30 functioning exhibits.

"I like the exhibits because I learn, and don't have to read it from a book," says 5th grader Astrid Corvin-Brittin. "I get to do things."

Some of the students don't read from the books, but there are books available. A small science library with about 50 books is tucked behind a table with microscopes and dissecting boards.

There are small aquariums with Axolotls (water dogs), hermit crabs and other kinds of sea life. Sudran sometimes stops by the fish market and picks up a sea creature for the students to dissect.

"Both my parents work late and after



Photo by Tom Hafer

DANIEL SUDRAN AND STUDENTS AT WORK

school I had to find stuff to do," says 5th grader Elizabeth Anderson as she cuts off the leg of an octopus. "I tried it here and I like it."

In another part of the Workshop students make personal science projects.

"This year I made a switchboard, a speaker, a flashlight, a wooden spoon and a sign with my father's name on it," says Anderson.

There are switches, batteries, wires, small motors, speakers and other materials that the students use to create their own gadgets or recreate an exhibit.

"This is an active museum," says Sudran. "Instead of gawking at exhibits, visitors interact with them. It's like going to an art museum and seeing a Picasso, then moving to a work station and trying to mix oils to create a similar texture."

Three Mission District residents assist Sudran with the children's projects along with a host of volunteers. All the exhibits' instruc-

tions are written in Spanish and English. Also, Sudran and his assistants are bilingual.

Students are encouraged to create their own curriculum. For instance, the students wanted to work with wood and in a short time they were carving spoons and bowls from redwood and building wooden marimbas from hardwoods.

"Our experience at the Workshop is teaching us how important it is to combine shop and tool practice with the study of how and why things work the way they do," says Sudran. "I think that we've only begun to scratch the surface of this kind of do-it-yourself science."

Hours for the Workshop are Monday-Thursday, 3-5 PM.

For information about participating in the Mission Science Workshop/Taller de Ciencias, call Daniel Sudran, 550-4419, or call City College's Engineering and Technology Department, 239-3138.

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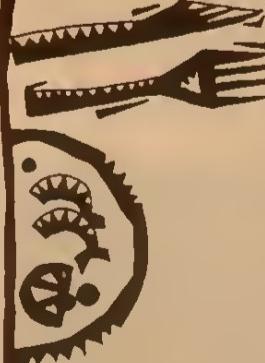
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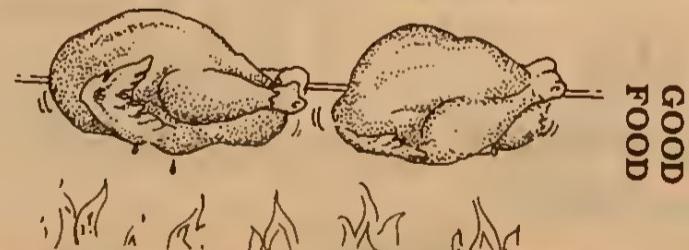
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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

A Place Locked In Time - local historian Mae Silver gives a slide talk and book signing of Rancho San Miguel, her latest work about the Mission/Noe Valley in the 1850s. At Noe Valley library, 451 Jersey, 7 PM (695-5095).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Taking Shape Series - Brava! for Women in the Arts presents Claire Blotter, Cynthia Bruckman, DeeAnne Davis and Judy Juanita, "new works from women who write and perform". Brava! Studio Theatre, 2180 Bryant Street at 20th through 7th. 8 PM except 7 PM Sunday, \$7-12, 641-7657.

Open Screening - brand spanking new works, works in progress and other at Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, Free, 824-3890.

Jewish Leshians: Culture of Resistance - panel discussion with Marcia Freeman, Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, Sara Levi Calderon and Penny Rosenwasser at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free! (282-9246).

The Trials of Jane Doe - Erica Essner and the Dancers Group at Footwork's Bread and Butter Series, 8:30 PM through 13th. 3221 22nd, \$10, 824-5044.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The Rimers of Eldritch - by Lanford Wilson, directed by Lawrence Bedini at the Bedini Theatre Project at Miz Brown's, Fridays and Saturdays through 27th. "Eldritch, population 73. A nearly abandoned town in the Midwest where a murder has been committed... something evil lurks among these vicious people." 565 Mission, 8 PM, \$10, 921-2769.

Across the Wire - Luis Alberto Urrea's testimonies of life and bard times on the Mexican border at Modero Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free! (282-9246).

Boys' Town - vagabond orphan Stephen Beachy, journalist Bo Huston and neo-drag performer David Johnston camp it up at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 9 PM, \$4/5, 558-8112.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Chinese New Yearl - dim sum, dragons and fireworks in Chinatown. To intensify the experience consider the Cacapnic Treasure Hunt, one of the City's more sordid institutions involving intellectual stress and physical humiliation (but it's substantially less dangerous than it was in the late 70s/early 80's). \$2 plus various apparatus, call 564-5047 for particulars.

Late Night Improv - with Rafe Chase and special guests at the Marsh every Saturday night. Improvised performances based on film genres and audience suggestions... Vampires (6th), Romance (13th), Slapstick (20th) and Musical (27th). 1062 Valencia near 22nd, 10:30 PM, \$7, 641-0235.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Spearman Sessions - creative improvised music with saxophonist/composer Glenn Spearman and different guests Sundays all month at Radio Valencia, 1199 Valencia at 23rd. 8 PM, \$5, 826-1199. See interview with Glen Spearman this issue.

Jacking In - a monthly event on cyberspace literacy with Internet navigator

Ene-Thiese at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7 PM, \$3-5 (virtual currency discouraged), 282-9246.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Monday Night Marsh - new and "seasoned" performance by rotating teams of performers (also 15th and 22nd). 1062 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$6. Call 641-0235 for schedule.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Black History Month - brings storyteller Anita Jones to the Mission Library, 3359 24th, 10:30 PM. A wide range of events are being produced by the library, primarily at the Western Addition and Civic Center branches, but also elsewhere. Pick up a schedule at the Mission branch or call 695-5090.

The Issue is Power - essays on women, Jews, violence and Resistance with Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, reading at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia near 21st. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

A Taste of Power - reading with Elaine Brown, former Black Panther leader at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

An Evening With a Ache - readings by Natalie Devora and other contributors to the journal for African-American Lesbians at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

From Kampuchea to Eddy Street - reception for Cambodian art exhibit at The Luggage Store Gallery, 1007 Market near 6th, 4 PM. Exhibit continues through March 6th, 255-5971.

Drink Cultura: Chicanismo - essays by Jose Antonio Burciaga on the clash and union between Anglo-American and Mexican cultures through history, humor and investigative journalism at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free! 282-9246.

Cable Capers - for people without cable, ATA screens highlights of its weekly public access program by Phil Patris "wiggly bits and tender morsels for your viewing pleasure" at 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, Free! 824-3890.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Taking (More) Shapes - at Brava! (see 4th). Roberta D'Alois, Judy Jones, Awele Makeba and Cherrie Moraga's Write On! Act Out! class throng the space at 2180 Bryant through 14th. 8 PM (7 PM 14th), \$7-12, 641-7657.

Road Warriors - twisted tales of sex and drugs from Bana Witt ("Mobius Stripper") and Chris Kammler ("Questions and Desires") at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 9 PM, \$4/5, 558-8112.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Poetry Above Paradise - with Jonna Tamases and Emilia Paredes at 11th and Folsom. 8 PM, followed by open reading, free.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

California Joe's Poets and Balladeers - cowboy poet California Joe (aka Stevenson Phillips) moseys into The Marsh at 8:30 PM

(also 24th) for some Western-style fun and he's joined by a host of his friends for a "rip roaring open-mike finale". Git' along to 1062 Valencia, \$6, 641-0235.

The Trojan Women - adapted to postwar Japan by Tadashi Suzuki and a cast of samurai-Greek warriors at Theatre of Yugen at the Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa, Thursdays-Sundays through March 7th. 8 PM with 3 PM Sunday matinee, \$8-12, call 621-0507 for reservations and special two-for-one ticket offer.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Real Voices - back by popular demand, Tale Spinners Theater presents an on-going series of Oral Histories at The Marsh, 968 Valencia. 8 PM through 28th, \$7-12, 641-0235.

Suitcases and Strangers - new work by Gary Palmer Dance Company at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 8 PM (through 21st), \$15, 621-7797.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Back in Back Sax - with Robert Haven of the Church of John Coltrane and Lewis Jordan of the legendary Blue Dolphin honking and discoursing at Dogeared Books, 1173 Valencia at 23rd. 8 PM, \$2.

A Call to Greatness - "Work and play in a very special space with other Great Ones who are called by their Greater Self and get in touch with the special being that YOU are!" A state of the art seminar through 21st conducted by Isana Mada Grace Dhyana and the Mandala. \$300 single/\$500 couple, 749-7677.

Acid Tongues - Sin Sirocco ("Edge City") and Danielle Hell Willis ("Breakfast in the Flesh District") corrode things up at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-5, 282-9246.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Audre Lorde Birthday Commemoration - sponsored by Old Wives' Tales. Drumming, video, poetry, prose and dancing at special Oakland location, Presbyterian Church, 27th & Broadway. Gathering 6 PM, Performance 8 PM, \$0-25, 821-4675.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Always Running - Luis Rodriguez reads from his memoirs of La Vida Loca in L.A., joined by his son Ramiro, of a Chicago gang at Modern Times, 888 Valencia.

A Slice of Brie - Brie Ducey reading with Joyce Young at Poetry Above Paradise, 11th and Folsom, 8 PM, Free!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Presidents' Day - go out and git' yourself a couple o' dead ones.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Open Gay and Lesbian Reading - Modern Times welcomes queer writers to spread their wings and soar at 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Mogador - Alberto Ruy Sanchez reads from his poetic novel of an imaginary walled city off the coast of Morocco. This winner of the Villarrutia Prize (the Mexican equivalent of the Pulitzer) appears at Modern Times, 888 Valencia, co-sponsored by City Lights and the Poetry Center. 7:30, Free! 282-9246.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

El Sabor - a mixed-media art exhibition about food and culture opening at Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24. Artists' reception 4 PM, exhibition through March 27th (826-8009).

New Open Screen - sponsored by Cinematheque at Anti Matter, 190 Capp at 17th following Claire Bain's 8MM films starring Vel Richards: "Vel is the question in the heart of Middle America that asks 'who am I?'" 7:30 PM, exhibitionists come early, \$3-5, 558-8129.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Blanche on the Lam - Barbara Neely reads from her novel about a domestic worker who turns sleuth when one of her wealth employers is killed. 8 PM, \$3-10 (Zoe Baird admitted free with valid ID) at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st (821-4675).

Poetry Above Paradise - Susan Dambroff and Eleni Sikilianos reading at the Paradise Lounge, 11th and Folsom, 8PM, Free.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Mira, Cycle II - The Fall - opening of a new work by Contraband at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida is a benefit for S.F. Women against Rape. 8:30 PM through 14th, \$12.50 - \$25, 558-8821.

ONGOING:

Galleries: Oil paintings by Leslie Andelin through 6th at The Bearded Lady Cafe, 485 14th at Guerrero, 626-2805.

Theater: "The Hole" by Ken Prestinini continuing at The Marsh through 14th, 968 Valencia, 8 PM, \$7-12, 641-0235 while, at the other Marsh at 1062 Valencia, Lisa Kotin's "Temporary Girl" continues through 28th - 8:30 PM, also \$7-12, same phone. "Fragments of an America (Sections VIII-X), a Negativa Production by Iranian creator/director Bahak Ebrahimian brings "an explosion of wild poetry, music and dance in utopian fragments" to the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 11th through 28th at 8:30 PM, \$6-12, 497-1159.

Words:

THURSDAYS - readings at Cafe Bahar (992 Guerrero, 282-6789).

FRIDAYS - Spoken Word Savages at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 9 PM, \$4/5, 558-8112.

SATURDAYS - Children's stories at Mission Library... Baby/toddler lapsits to 3 yrs old 11 AM, Spanish language story time at noon for younger kids. Free afternoon poetry at the Welcome Mat, 1-3 PM, (807 Valencia, 647-3663).

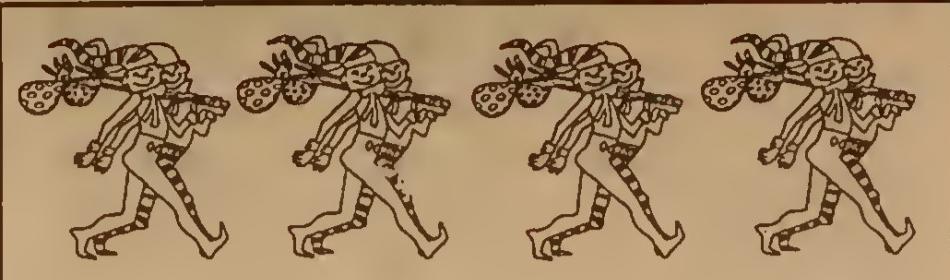
SUNDAYS - Poetry Above Paradise, 301 Folsom at 11th, 8 PM, free, 861-6906.

MONDAYS - spoken word and open mike at Club Chameleon, 853 Valencia, 821-1891.

Education: A workshop on "Challenging White Supremacy starts on Feb. 11th for 12 weeks, sponsored by Open Forum - call 552-0389. "Ripe Fruit Writing Workshops" for wannabe poets with Leslie Kirk Campbell promise "recession rates" (of \$80-300/session) and a convenient SF location, call 285-1926.

Media: Call for submissions to Toontown Rats (and they have ways to deal with submission). Mail independently produced animated videos of choice nature to Keith Knight (producer of the K Chronicles and Bruno MacPush) c/o ATA, 992 Valencia. Or - call 824-3890 or 752-4037. Storm the barriers! of KPFA, join the listeners' revolt, besiege Stalinist producers, restore censored programming, embarrass Bill Mandel - call (510) 534-9276 for particulars.

Seniors: Free Senior Gold Card Directory available through the Commission on the Aging, 25 Van Ness at Market, Room 750 (626-1033) lists over 300 businesses providing discounts to seniors 60 years of age or older. Tax counseling from the Senior Information and Referral Program of the COA, same address/phone.



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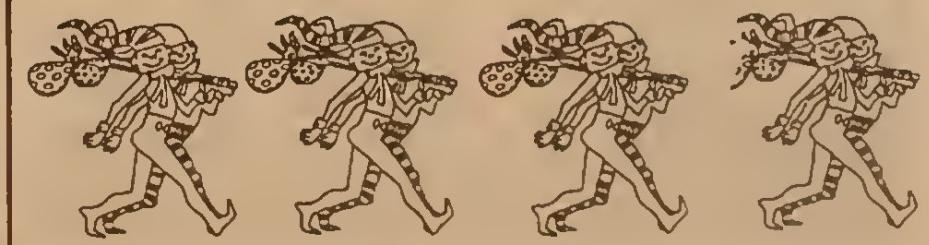
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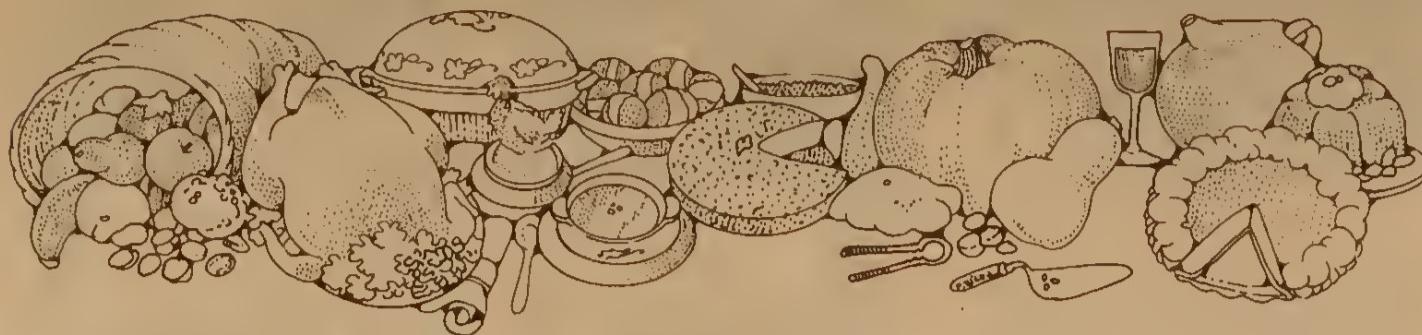
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LOVE HUNGRY



by Frank Deadbeat

I'll call her "Kim". She was my girlfriend back in '81: a fresh-faced seventeen, a virgin. I was twenty-one, a perv, and I was always horny. Really horny. "Frank," she'd say, "stand on your head." I'd stand on my head. "Frank, wiggle your ears." I'd wiggle my ears. She'd laugh.

"Kim," I'd say, "take off your jeans." She'd keep on laughing, maybe kiss me, but the jeans stayed zipped. Good girl.

Six months of this reduced me to a drooling mess. I lived on hope and fantasy. I was her slave. I knew I couldn't go on much longer like this... something had to give. I was beginning to lust after the melons in the supermarket — not to mention nice warm bean burritos with a hole at one end — Mickey's Big Mouth bottles filled with creamy Jello pudding — Kim's cuddly stuffed animals — old socks and comfy slippers. Even my cat, warned by some instinct, was beginning to avoid me.

In November of that frustrated year, Kim said, "I'd like you to come down to my folks' house for Thanksgiving. I'd like to introduce you."

"Sure," I panted, "whatever you say. Now can I lick your toes?"

"Oh Frank. You're such a riot."

On Thanksgiving Day we took the train down the peninsula to her parents' house. Her parents and her little brother lived in a fairly well-to-do neighborhood in Millbrae. Dad gave Kim a big hug at the front door as the family dog, a fat bitch in heat, tried to rub her butt against my leg. "And how's my little girl? Still getting good grades in college?"

"Oh Daddy... I want you to meet my friend Frank."

He looked me up and down; concluded from my lack of visible tattoos and my firm but friendly manner with the dog that I was no big threat. I eyed his comfy slippers. "So," he said, shaking my hand, "you're Frank. Kim's quite the treasure, isn't she?"

"Oh yeah," I said, stepping inside as mom came from the kitchen stirring a bowl of cookie batter. Soft, smooth cookie batter... and mom wasn't too bad-looking herself. When she handed Kim the bowl and hugged me, it was all I could do to keep from grabbing her big ass right there in the hall.

"So you're the nice young man Kim has told us so much about."

I blushed, which seemed to endear me to her. She pinched my cheek. I resisted the temptation to pinch hers...

"Where's Danny?" Kim chirped.

"Oh," said mom, "your brother's just a little mystery man these days. He's at that awkward age..." In answer to her call, the pimply-faced thirteen-year-old emerged sheepishly from the bathroom down the hall. He shuffled up and mumbled a hello; gave me a rather sticky handshake. I could sympathize.

"Come look at the turkey," mom said and we all trooped to the kitchen and had to bend down to look through the little glass window of the lighted oven, oohing and aahing over

the big-breasted bird that was basting in there. Then we sat down in the adjoining dining room and made some strained attempts at conversation. Pretty soon dad was doing a crossword puzzle, smoking his pipe; Danny was watching the little TV on the kitchen counter, and Kim was helping her mom in the kitchen. At one point they both bent over to look at the turkey — both their stellar asses facing me, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor.

"It's a butterball!" mom said, turning to smile at me.

"Yeah," I said, "I noticed" — Mr. Willie almost popping out of my pants.

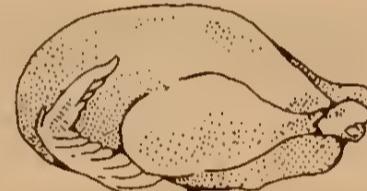
The dog trotted in, whining, its leash in its mouth.

"Whose turn to walk the dog?" mom called.

"Uh, since you're going to so much trouble with dinner," I said, remembering the dog's previous affections, "I feel that I should volunteer."

"Well, that's a very gentlemanly offer!"

"I'll come with you," Kim said. "OK, mom?"



"Just don't be too long, dear."

I put the leash on the dog and she dragged me out of the house, Kim giggling behind me. As we reached a tree, the dog cut me some slack. The trees and grass smelled good in the autumn air. The dark suburban street was quiet. Kim sidled up beside me and we started kissing. I held her close, put my fingertips down the back of her jeans. I slid them in a little more — a little more — she slapped my hand away and laughed, still kissing me.

When we got back to the house, the dog seemed bent on sniffing at a water spigot next to the rose bushes, so we took the time to kiss some more. I was getting really hot. I tried my finger trick again; this time I was interrupted by a bell being rung inside the house.

"That's dinnertime!" Kim pulled herself

free and turned — then froze in horror. The dog had backed up onto the water spigot, and in her lustful squirming had managed to turn on not only herself but the spigot as well! The poor cur was filling up like a water balloon! Her whines were pitiful to hear. Kim screamed; the rest of the family rushed out of the house...

I will omit detailed descriptions of their efforts to free the dog.

Suffice it to say, it took quite some time and large amounts of WD40. It was taking so long, in fact, that I wandered back into the house unnoticed. The dining room table was set, the steaming turkey resting on a silver platter, succulently plump, its legs up in the air. I'm telling you, I couldn't help myself. I pulled my pants down to my ankles, bopped up on the table, and...

"OH MY GOD FRANK WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?"

I fell face-first into the mashed potatoes. Kim burst into tears. "Oh Frank, oh Frank, how could you?"

"Aw, now, honey, this ol' hird don't mean nuthin' to me! It's you I really dig!"

Kim's mother walked in with the bloated, wet, unconscious family dog in her arms, followed by Kim's dad, who bit down on his pipe so hard he cracked the stem.

Danny just ran for the bathroom.

I gave Kim's mother my most ingratiating smile. "Pardon me; I took the liberty of tasting the stuffing, and felt it needed a little something..."

Next thing I know I'm hurtling out the front door in a high arc, landing in the rose bushes with dad's not-so-comfy slipper wedged firmly up my ass.

Needless to say, I had a pretty lonely Christmas... after my sliperectomy I mostly just lay around the house recuperating, reading magazines, lots of magazines. Kim never returned my calls. By Valentine's Day, the cat was nowhere to be found.

PS: I hear Kim is now a buleptic dominatrix living in Pittsburgh, CA. Me, I've got a grown-up girlfriend now; I once had Thanksgiving with her family and wasn't even tempted to defile the main course.

As for the "main course" on Valentine's Day, well, that's another story...



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by Gary Byrd

I screamed down the street. An old woman perched on the curb raised her hand, ordering it to stop. Instead, the wind from its passing left her shawl in the gutter. It was red and loud and... it was known throughout the city as Viento Negro (Black Wind).

The driver wore his hair slicked back with a tremendous pompadour that reached out over his forehead.

The first thing you saw as you climbed into his ride was a dog's skull at the base of the gearshift.

The Black Wind picked up its last fare one day when it swerved to avoid a car and plowed into a house. The driver was last seen running away from the bus, away from the inevitable punishment...

Lalo Obregon has just recounted a scenario he vividly remembers from the late 1950s. He was a child in Mexico City and the Black Wind was one of many public buses.

Beginning in the late 1930s and stretching into the 1960s, the buses that navigated the streets of Mexico City were ornately decorated.

There were several private companies that owned buses in Mexico City, discernible only by the exterior colors. For instance, one company might paint their buses red with a white stripe down the side, whereas another company's would be green. Companies dictated the color, but each driver used his imagination in sprucing it up.

The company assigned each driver one bus. The driver often spent fifteen hour days behind the wheel and, over time, he made it an extension of his personality.

It was common for buses to have hundreds of lights, chromed hood ornaments and horns, a mural on the ceiling and numerous icons on the dashboard. Most had an icon of Saint Cristobal, the patron saint of

bus drivers.

"There was a competition between drivers to see who could make their bus the most flamboyant," says Obregon. "They were always competing in fun. When a bus stop was ahead, the bus drivers would race to get there first."

These competitions resulted in risky antics and earned many drivers the well-

"The Mexican Bus is an interpretation of urban Mexican folk art," says Hafer. "Putting this bus on the road is our way of paying homage to all the bus drivers in Mexico City."

Striving for authenticity, Hafer and Obregon commissioned Arturo Cordova, a former Peruvian bus painter, to paint murals on the bus' interior.

"Some people say it looks like a

For the last six months, however, the bus has been insured and rolling through the streets of the Mission.

On Thursday and Friday nights the bus, with Mambo Cabaret, transforms into the "Late Nite Salsa Express". It boards at the Cadillac Bar (9:00 PM) and motors to three other dance clubs. Reservations are required.

Private mural tours are another way to ride in El Volado. Hafer and Obregon have mapped out four mural tours, each lasting about three hours.

Hafer and Obregon are also in the initial stages of organizing a community outreach program. The program's design is to bring people from the Bay Area and tourists into the Mission aboard El Volado, educating them about Latino culture through public murals.

Susan Cervantes of Precita Eyes is helping coordinate the effort (Precita Eyes is a Mission-based nonprofit that offers walking tours of the Mission's murals on Saturdays.)

"There are over 100 public murals in the Mission," says Cervantes. "In 1992 the number of people that went on the Precita Eyes' walking tour doubled from the previous year."

Hafer and Obregon, in collaboration with Precita Eyes, want to facilitate the growing interest in Latino and Latina mural art.

"Tourists mean money to the Mission merchants and the Mission economy," says Cervantes. "El Volado can bring them in."

The group also wants to educate Mission residents. Targeting schools and churches, the group wants to offer inexpensive tours to the people that the murals were painted for - the community.

For more information on El Volado private or mural tours, contact Tom Hafer or Lalo Obregon at 648-2927. For donating to the El Volado fund, contact Hafer or Obregon or Susan Cervantes at Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 285-2287.



Photo by Toni Hafer

deserved nickname "cañeras" (drives wild).

A tradition that had so long been a part of Mexico City waned in the 1960s. The city turned to compact buses, because of pollution, leading to the extinction of buses like the Black Wind.

Mission residents Lalo Obregon and Toni Hafer interviewed retired and working bus drivers from Mexico City. A desire to recreate an old-style Mexico City bus came from these interviews.

After receiving a grant from Festival 2000, they bought an old school bus that they converted into El Volado (The Mexican Bus).

Christmas tree at night," says Hafer.

And rightly so. Chrome hood ornaments and horns cover the long nose of the bus and over 100 lights were wired, giving the bus a festive appearance.

The bus was idle for some time after being finished in 1990, making rare appearances at public events.

"We couldn't give the public rides on it, because the insurance for carrying people is so expensive," says Hafer. "It couldn't pay for itself."

Indeed. A one year insurance policy costs \$11,000.

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